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About the Namibia Bird Club

The Namibia Bird Club was founded in 1962 and has been active since then. The club's mission is to contribute to Namibian ornithology by, amongst other things, arranging regular birding outings, conducting bird ringing and atlasing excursions and educating the public about the value of birds. To achieve this, we organise monthly visits to interesting birding sites around Windhoek as well as regular visits to Avis Dam and the Gammams Water Care Works and occasional weekend trips further afield. Bird club members also participate in the African Waterbird Census twice a year.

Experienced birders are more than happy to help beginners and novices on these outings. If you have a transport problem or would like to share transport please contact a committee member. Depending on the availability of speakers and suitable material we present occasional lecture or video evenings at the Namibia Scientific Society premises. Members receive the bird club's journal, *Lanioturdus* and outings and events are advertised on the club's website www.namibiabirdclub.org.

The Namibia Bird Club is not affiliated to any global or regional organisation and relies entirely on members' subscriptions and donations to fund its activities.

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Cover photo Black-chested Prinia © Holger Kolberg

Summary of the 2018 winter wetland bird counts in Namibia

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Wetland bird counts were conducted at 49 sites in the winter months of 2018. Whilst at the coast the normal winter conditions prevailed, the inland counts were conducted, at times, at arctic temperatures and most of the pans near Tsumkwe were completely dry. The north-eastern rivers were still relatively high with many areas flooded that would normally be dry by this time of the year. A total of 193 812 birds of 105 species were counted, the majority of this number at Sandwich Harbour and Walvis Bay. The wetlands of north-eastern Namibia, as usual, dominate in terms of the number of species counted. Lesser Flamingos were represented in rather low numbers, the reason for this is not quite clear but the possibility exists that they remained behind in Botswana where they bred successfully in the summer. No counts were conducted in the Etosha

area and this accounts for the absence of e.g. Blue Cranes from the count. Twenty-two of Namibia's red data species were counted, Greater Flamingo, Cape Cormorant and Black-necked Grebe making up the bulk of the total there. A record (winter) number (35) of Eurasian Curlew were counted at Sandwich Harbour and at Shearwater Bay (Lüderitz peninsula) a record number of Damara Terns (154) was counted. Flamingo numbers appear to be on the increase, no doubt due to several successful breeding attempts in Etosha and Botswana. Of concern is the apparent decline in gulls and terns. Numbers of terns have steadily decreased over the past couple of years, this warrants further investigation. Many thanks to the volunteers that ensure that these counts are conducted on a regular basis.

Table 1: Details on all the sites counted.

Site	Date	Grebes	Pelicans	Cormorants & Darter	Hérons & Egrets	Storks	Ibises & Spoonbill	Hamerkop	Flamingos	Cranes	Geese & Ducks	Rails, Gallinules & Coot	Finfoot & Jacana	Waders/Shorebirds	Gulls, Terns & Skimmer	Birds of Prey	Additional Species	No of Birds	No of Species
Aeroplane Bay	06-Jul-18	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	18	0	0	37	4
Agate Beach	06-Jul-18	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	18	348	0	0	366	3
Avis Dam	12-Aug-18	6	0	5	3	0	1	0	0	0	107	3	0	13	0	0	0	138	14
Baraka Pan	24-Jul-18	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cape Cross	06-Aug-18	3713	0	35019	0	0	0	0	2912	0	78	0	0	526	243	0	0	42491	17
Chobe River	19-Jul-18	0	5	280	46	25	6	0	0	0	259	0	40	125	66	5	0	857	31
Daan Viljoen GP	11-Aug-18	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	70	5	0	0	0	0	0	78	6
Gautscha Pan	24-Jul-18	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	13	0	0	0	14	4
Gimsa Pan	24-Jul-18	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Goreangab Dam	11-Aug-18	62	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	54	177	0	1	0	0	0	296	10
Griffith Bay	06-Jul-18	0	0	53	3	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	6	5	0	0	69	10
Groot Dobe	24-Jul-18	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Grosse Bucht	06-Jul-18	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	14	0	0	0	0	26	29	0	0	70	7
Guano Bay	06-Jul-18	0	0	17	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	43	48	0	0	109	7
Gura Pan	24-Jul-18	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	1
Hakusembe, Okavango River	13-Jul-18	0	0	14	80	57	5	0	0	0	0	6	5	27	0	3	0	197	21
Hardap Dam	28-Jun-18	0	86	85	9	8	28	0	0	0	328	0	0	135	33	2	0	714	19
Hoffnung Dam	12-Aug-18	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	304	0	0	14	0	0	0	320	6
Khabi Pan	24-Jul-18	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Klein Dobe	24-Jul-18	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Leadwood Pan	24-Jul-18	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1
Lüderitz Sewage Works	06-Jul-18	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	450	0	18	0	0	9	98	0	0	578	11
Mahango Core Area	22-Jul-18	0	0	57	100	75	138	0	0	8	3344	1	52	92	0	7	0	3874	27

Makuri Vlei	24-Jul-18	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mavunje, Kwando River	21-Jul-18	1	0	3	14	2	3	4	0	1	44	5	50	50	0	3	0	180	23	
Mile 4 Saltworks	29-Jun-18	818	0	172	5	0	0	0	1785	0	113	0	0		37	0	0	2930	18	
Monte Christo	13-Aug-18	8	9	9	8	106	10	0	0	0	500	32	6	31	0	2	0	721	26	
Mubala (Kalizo), Zambezi River	17-Jul-18	0	9	262	473	24	14	3	0	0	509	0	17	59	270	17	0	1657	37	
Nama Pan	24-Jul-18	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Nama Pan II	24-Jul-18	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Namushasha, Kwando River	15-Jul-18	0	0	4	17	1	8	0	0	0	8	1	1	24	0	3	0	67	19	
Naute Dam	30-Jun-18	3	59	79	8	0	2	0	3	0	209	5	0	3	0	0	0	371	13	
Nunda Area, Okavango River	28-Jul-18	0	0	67	57	0	3	2	0	0	33	3	11	50	0	3	0	229	21	
Nuu-no Pan	24-Jul-18	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Nyae Nyae Pan	24-Jul-18	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Radford Bay	06-Jul-18	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	29	0	0	0	0	11	51	0	0	94	8	
Riverdance Area, Okavango River	13-Jul-18	0	0	15	42	0	1	2	0	0	26	5	5	39	0	3	0	138	27	
Samsitu Area, Okavango River	01-Jul-18	1	0	35	310	202	113	1	0	1	175	13	67	47	4	4	0	973	39	
Sandwich Harbour	04-Aug-18	0	54	15072	64	0	0	0	26858	0	30	0	0	8112	919	0	0	51109	31	
Second Lagoon	06-Jul-18	0	0	29	3	0	0	0	108	0	0	0	0	7	16	0	0	163	9	
Shamvura Area, Okavango River	14-Jul-18	0	0	1389	134	2	43	1	0	2	57	4	4	108	51	0	0	1795	55	
Shearwater Bay	06-Jul-18	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	65	0	0	0	0	5	177	0	0	247	5	
Swakop River Mouth	29-Jun-18	0	0	31	4	0	0	0	12	0	2	6	0	7	7	0	0	69	14	
Swakop Sewage Works	29-Jun-18	4	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	4	4	0	4	187	0	0	206	11	
Tjokwe Pan	24-Jul-18	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
van Rhyn Dam	29-Jun-18	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Walvis Bay	04-Aug-18	12122	404	4819	162	0	0	0	50629	0	1061	0	0	9135	2397	0	0	80729	38	
Walvis Bay Sewage Ponds	05-Aug-18	9	1	0	5	0	1	0	1185	0	119	85	0	14	58	0	0	1477	20	
Windhoek (Gammams) Sewage Works	11-Aug-18	8	2	22	65	0	11	0	0	0	144	145	1	47	0	0	1	446	30	
Total		16758	629	57548	1620	502	387	13	84052	12	7598	501	259	18818	5062	52	1	193812	<i>105</i>	

Table 2: Numbers of red data species counted and number of sites where they were seen.

Species	Total	Sites
Greater Flamingo	68562	14
Cape Cormorant	54874	7
Black-necked Grebe	16652	4
Lesser Flamingo	9930	6
Chestnut-banded Plover	6649	4
Hartlaub's Gull	1295	15
Great White Pelican	614	8
African Skimmer	202	2
African Black Oystercatcher	161	9
Damara Tern	155	2
Caspian Tern	145	3
Marabou Stork	117	5
Crowned Cormorant	86	7
Maccoa Duck	50	2
African Fish-Eagle	43	12
Eurasian Curlew	35	1
Rufous-bellied Heron	18	5
Wattled Crane	12	4
African Marsh-Harrier	12	8
Bank Cormorant	10	1
Saddle-billed Stork	5	3
Slaty Egret	2	2

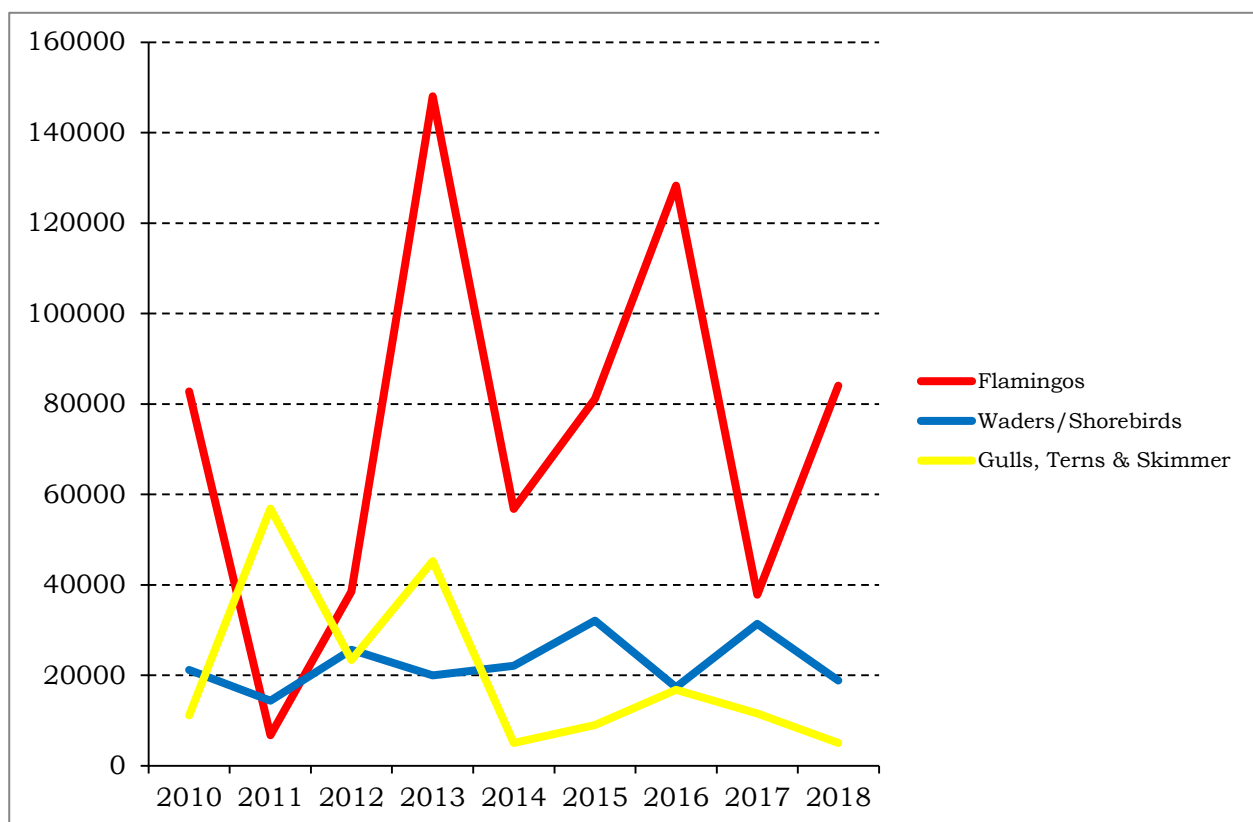


Figure 1: Numbers of three main groups counted from 2010 to 2018.