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BIRDLIFE BOTSWANA

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Journal of BirdLife Botswana





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EDITORIAL

Apart from the paper on waterbird counts which documents the counts for two years – from July 2008 to January 2010, there are no other substantive papers in this issue of *Babbler*. However, it contains many interesting notes and a backlog of sight and breeding records and early and late migrant dates from 2009 and 2010. Some of these records have been extracted from Tickbird so please continue supporting that and the more information you can provide, especially on numbers of any species seen, the better.

Among the notes are several from Mark Muller and Ali Flatt on birds in their Maun garden, at nearby pans and along the Thamalakane River. Richard Randall has contributed two notes – on the important Pink-backed Pelican breeding colony at Kanana and on sightings of Rufous-eared Warblers in the Kalahari. His description of Croaking Cisticolas that he saw in February in Kazuma Forest Reserve, serves as a good model for your own rarity sighting! Maria Eifler, a new contributor, writes of a memorable camping trip at Masetheng Pan in SW Botswana; her sighting of an African Openbill was unusual but late 2009/early 2010 will go down in history as the season of a huge invasion of Openbills into South Africa. Nicky Bousfield provides an update on ‘her’ Tachila Nature Reserve near Francistown, a wonderful initiative whilst Chris Brewster writes on that elusive skulking species, the River Warbler which turned up at Notwane in SE Botswana. Both Mark Muller and Nicky Bousfield sent notes to me of Pygmy-Kingfishers that they had handled. Ann Gollifer, another new contributor, reported on the deaths of Palm Swifts after prolonged wet weather.

I do not always see *Honeyguide*, a journal on birds in Zimbabwe, but have caught up with some interesting papers. Do please look at the summaries of some of these recent papers in *Honeyguide* which is an excellent publication. Many cover parts of Botswana or discuss birds that occur in Botswana.

Finally, I would like to thank our hard-working and far-sighted Chairman, Harold Hester for all that he has done and continues to do for BirdLife Botswana. I am sure this echoes the sentiments of us all. He does far more than any Chairman should be expected to do. I would also like to thank Doreen McColaugh for proof-reading this issue – a thankless task but she finds various things that I missed.

Stephanie J. Tyler, Editor

BirdLife Botswana - Chairman's report May 2010

Summary

It is apposite that in this Year of International Biodiversity, today is International Biodiversity Day. BirdLife Botswana's business is about helping to maintain Botswana's biodiversity. We do this through protecting species, sites, habitats and creating opportunities for communities living near bird areas to earn a meaningful income. Lastly we create an interest and awareness among the population, especially the youth, in birds.

This has been a year of many challenges. We lost key staff at a crucial time, financial issues were ever-present but we did organise a successful Council of the African Partnership conference for twenty-three African partners in March at Kasane and produced an outstanding calendar. We have struggled at times but I believe are stronger for meeting these challenges.

Species Conservation

Kabelo Senyatso has continued his study of the **Kori Bustard**. Eight birds have been fitted with transmitters (unfortunately two have died) and others have been wing-tagged in the Central Kalahari Game Reserve and their progress monitored on a daily basis by satellite. The project is investigating the ecology of Kori Bustard. After nearly three years of research, five components have been developed, studied and are being written up:

- A review of Kori Bustard status across Africa
- The development of a census methodology for large grassland birds
- A better understanding of factors attributing to Kori Bustard presence or absence
- Census of other co-occurring species
- The use of satellite transmitters to understand the habitat use of Kori Bustard and its seasonal movements.

This research is being done under the auspices of Dr Paul Dolman at the University of East Anglia and Dr. Nigel Collar, the acknowledged world bustard expert based at BirdLife International. Our thanks go to Debswana, Botash and the United States of America-based Kori Bustard Species Survival Plan for their financial contributions, which allowed us to purchase the transmitters.

Raptors and vultures are at the top of ecological food pyramids, and their population numbers and trends reflect the state of Botswana's ecosystem. For this reason, Pete Hancock has a raptor monitoring programme, based on conducting counts along fixed road transects, a standard method used throughout Africa, to

keep a finger on the pulse of raptor health. We are grateful to the Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund for supporting this important project. The counts presently being conducted (tens of thousands of kilometres have already been clocked) will yield immediately useful information as they will be comparable with baseline counts conducted during the seventies, eighties and nineties, by Wendy and Remi Borello, and former Department of Wildlife & National Parks (DWNP) Ornithologist, Dr Marc Herremans.

There have been at least four documented poisoning events in Chobe District, Okavango Delta and Ghanzi, in which more than two hundred White-backed Vultures have died. Some of these poisonings were perpetrated by poachers and others by farmers in an attempt to kill problem Spotted Hyena. BirdLife Botswana (BLB) and DWNP have conducted five workshops with local communities in these areas to explain the hazards of this type of action and a poster about vultures has been produced.

The **flamingo research** project's annual monitoring continued this rainy season (for the twelfth consecutive year), with a survey in February revealing that many thousands of yet to be counted Lesser and Greater Flamingo adults were raising their chicks. January and February were relatively dry months, so the colonies were abandoned in mid Feb, owing to the pan drying up in the south. March and April had much rain though, which almost certainly sustained the remaining chicks until they fledged some few months later.

A collaborative partnership with Max Plank Institute, Germany was formed earlier last year to conduct a satellite tracking study of the Lesser Flamingos at Makgadikgadi. The project raised funds for six solar powered satellite tracking devices, which will be deployed before the end of the current flood period on Sua Pan, (1st week of June). The research project is also closely involved in advising the recently designated flamingo sanctuary.

The **Common Bird Monitoring (CBM) Project** that was started last year is slowly but steadily growing. More and more people are participating in the fixed transect counts and we encourage more to join. Counts are done in November and February each year along defined transects. Special mention must be made of the significant contribution from Wildlife Officers throughout the country. The project is decentralised down to the district level, and in each major district, a Wildlife Officer serves as the Monitoring Co-ordinator, gathering the information from his or her area and feeding it to the CBM Co-ordinator in BirdLife Botswana. To support the process of collecting information on common birds, the Small Grants Programme of the Global Environment Facility and the Royal Society for the

Protection of Birds (RSPB) has pledged funds that enable BirdLife Botswana to continue this work. This project has been led initially from Maun, but as from the beginning of June, it will become the responsibility of Keddy Mooketsa, who will educate and coordinate the public, and collate and archive the information collected. The project is still in its early stages, and so it is not possible to draw any conclusions about trends in common bird numbers. Since birds are an important part of biodiversity, this will contribute directly towards the Government's report to the Convention on Biological Diversity. We are grateful to be able to call on the experience of Dr Danae Sheehan of RSPB to assist us in our efforts in this new project.

Tickbird continues to flourish and is used by those who have access to an on-line computer. New members are encouraged to use it to record their sightings. This enables us to monitor birds which are seen around the country.

The **Records sub-committee** under the leadership of Chris Brewster continues to monitor our birds of concern and those on the A and B rarity lists.

The **Nest Record System and Raptor nest database** have both been maintained during the year.

The **bi-annual water bird counts** in January and July, which are coordinated by Dr Stephanie Tyler, provide so much information. For interest, in the January count, one part of Sua Pan in the Makgadikgadi Pans counted by Chris Brewster had more birds (87000) than all other sites put together but not surprisingly, the majority of the birds were flamingos. We are grateful to all the members around the country who took part in these counts and we thank them for their important contributions. We have recently had an influx of new members and it would be excellent for new volunteers to take on a site even for one or two January and July counts. Many important sites are not being covered in the Okavango Delta nor was Nata Delta to Sua Spit covered nor the beautiful outlying pans such as Rysana, Mokubilo and Mea Pans. Near Gaborone nobody made a count at the Phakalane and Tsholofelo Sewage Ponds. If anyone can help in any of these areas they should contact Dr Stephanie Tyler, the BLB Co-ordinator of waterbird counts in Botswana for Wetlands International and BirdLife International.

The 2009, updated **Red List of globally threatened birds** has recently been published on the BirdLife International website. There have been three important additions to the list, namely Grey Crowned Crane which has been up listed from Least Concern to Vulnerable, Bateleur and Martial Eagle which have both been up listed from Least Concern to Near Threatened. The change in status of these three

species is due to improved knowledge, rather than a recent severe decline since the previous list was published. Their up listing is not at all surprising, given that they were already regarded as Birds of Conservation Concern in Botswana.

Conservation of sites and habitats

A proposal to create a Flamingo Sanctuary in the southern part of Sua Pan is taking shape. This sanctuary will be a major contribution to the conservation of the Lesser Flamingo, a Near Threatened species, and its unique habitat - part of the Makgadikgadi Pans Important Bird Area in central Botswana. Credit for this initiative must go to DWNP and to communities living in the vicinity of the southern part of Sua Pan, who have wholeheartedly supported this project. BLB extends its sincere congratulations to the Director and staff of the Wildlife Department for taking the initiative to protect this internationally important site. To date the breeding areas in southern Sua Pan have only been protected by their remoteness and inaccessibility, but in recognition of the crucial role they play in the long-term survival of this globally threatened species, the Government of Botswana, through DWNP, has proposed to create a sanctuary encompassing these sites. Pete Hancock is leading the project: **Strategic Partnerships to improve the financial and operational sustainability of protected areas project (PSPA)**. This is a four-year project which is running between January 2009 and December 2012. He is conducting extensive consultation with all communities living around Sua Pan, and this has revealed widespread support for the initiative. Community members share a common vision for the area, whereby they plan to create a buffer of community photographic areas around the core protected area, thereby creating a larger more viable sanctuary from which they could also benefit without impinging on the sensitive breeding site. They are in the process of contributing to the formulation of regulations for the gazetted area, and securing funds to develop a management plan for the whole unit. It has been inspiring to see the co-operation and forward thinking of all involved in this initiative. In order to pilot a co-management model for protected areas, a team which includes Government, the private sector and communities has been established. However it is first necessary to build the capacity of the local Community-based Organisations (CBO) so that they can participate on an equal footing and in a meaningful way. To this end, the 'Strategic Partnerships' project has engaged in a series of workshops with the communities residing around the southern part of Sua Pan, namely Mmatshumo, Mosu and Mmeya (and more recently, Mokubilo), to help establish a common vision and strategic plan for southern Sua, and to put in place the necessary structures and systems to ensure that these are achieved.

The monitoring of Important Bird Areas (IBAs) under the leadership of Justin Soopu, is a core programme of BirdLife Africa Partnership and it is funded by the European Union through the RSPB. The project, which has been running for the

past three years, is due to end in October 2011. The aim is to monitor 75% of the IBAs within the BirdLife network countries. Emphasis is on capacity building, institutionalising biodiversity monitoring, the collection, analysis and dissemination of data on the condition of protected areas, and influencing protected area management using information from monitoring. We work closely with DWNP and the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA). They are, by virtue of being government biodiversity management agencies, members of the Project Steering Committee, and participate in the monitoring responsibilities and take action based on the results. Justin has successfully taken over from Virat, and the project is running to schedule. Five biodiversity training workshops for nearly 200 DWNP officers & CBO members were held in Jwaneng, Mababe, Ghanzi, Nata and Chobe as part of the training required for this project. A campaign initiated by government against the poisoning of vultures was held in Chobe District.

Pete Hancock was been involved in an important initiative that has long term implications for the protection and **sustainable management of the Okavango River and Delta**. This particular project, under the auspices of the Permanent Okavango River Basin Water Commission (OKACOM) aims to predict the response of the Okavango ecosystem to changes in water flow resulting from different water development scenarios. Central to the project is a predictive model which can be interrogated to provide information on the impacts (both positive and negative) of these potential scenarios on the ecological integrity of the system, as well as on the social and economic benefits. The Harry Oppenheimer Okavango Research Centre (HOORC) invited BirdLife Botswana to partner with it in this initiative, and together with Angolan and Namibian representatives they developed a shared vision for the Okavango River basin. This programme is especially relevant this year following the exceptional rains in Angola which are flooding all the water ways in Northern Botswana.

People programme

Early this year BLB's **Avi-tourism Handbook** was launched in Gaborone for members of central government and other stakeholders in the capital and in Mmeya Village for community members from the Makgadikgadi area, which is the major target group for the handbook. This publication, available in English and Setswana, is a tribute to the authors, Keddy Mooketsa and Boitumelo Sekhute-Batungamile and a supporting team of translators who provided their services on a voluntary basis. It is a step-by-step guide to starting a community-based bird tourism business, and covers all the major aspects of initiating such a venture. We look forward to a mushrooming of bird tourism businesses and the associated benefits this will bring to bird conservation and improving people's livelihoods in rural areas.

The project was funded by The Environment Support Programme (ESP), a joint initiative between the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Government of Botswana, the United Nations Development Programme/Global Environment Facility (UNDP/GEF) through the “Strategic Partnerships to Improve the Financial and Operational Sustainability of Protected Areas” project (PIMS 3984 BD MSP) and Debswana’s Jwaneng Mine (through the “Empowering local communities to conserve Kori Bustard *Ardeotis kori*: a flagship for the Kalahari Desert ecosystem” project).

Keddy Mooketsa has also been involved in a project entitled: **“Linking African children to the global conservation community – for the benefit of nature and people”**. This project was funded by the Jensen Foundation (UK) and involved seventeen BirdLife International partners in African countries coordinated by the BirdLife Africa Partnership Secretariat. The overall objective of the project was to link almost 400,000 African children, members of African wildlife clubs, with each other and the rest of the world. BLB has engaged constructively with ten schools in Gaborone and South East Botswana through a range of activities from drama, to music to art competitions.

World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD) is a global initiative devoted to celebrating migratory birds, and for promoting their conservation worldwide. The initiation of WMBD a few years ago was influenced by migratory birds receiving negative media coverage as a result of the false belief that they were the main cause of the spread of avian influenza around the world, which is something that time has conclusively disproved. The 2009 World Migratory Bird Day was celebrated by over 300 school children in Botswana participating in drama and poetry competition at Bokaa village, again under Keddy’s dynamic leadership. Virtually the whole Bokaa community and stakeholders witnessed the celebration and it was an outstanding success. The event was well covered by the media.

The 2010 WMBD celebration will be at Mogobane village on 29th May 2010 with school children showcasing Botswana’s diverse culture. Various schools will perform choral singing, dancing, drama and poetry depicting conservation issues and cooking traditional dishes. This year’s event will be funded by the Embassy of the United States of America, and is aimed at promoting culture, awareness and conservation of migratory birds and developing children’s interest in birds. The celebration will include children from various orphanages and associations involved with Aids to welcome them into our midst and make them feel part of the wider community.

A camp-out and bird walk with 120 school children from the Mariba Junior Secondary school was held in Mabula in southern Botswana in mid-winter. Significant interest was shown by the children and their teachers in seeing birds through telescopes and binoculars.

BLB continued publishing its flagship scientific journal, the *Babbler*, under the editorship of Dr Stephanie Tyler. This outstanding journal is a credit to the editor and is sponsored by Remi and Wendy Borello. We also produced two quarterly newsletters, *Birds & People*, edited by Pete Hancock and which is directed to Wildlife officers, tour guides as well as the general public, and the *Familiar Chat* edited by Eugenie Skelton and which is directed more toward members of BLB, but which has a “Kids Page” that is useful for schools and clubs.

Wildlife and Environmental Clubs in Zambia, Malawi and Angola have requested and are now using BLB’s *Bird Activity Book* in schools and clubs.

The BLB **website**, www.birdlifebotswana.org.bw, continues to attract positive comment. It is actively managed by Mike Goldsworthy with the support of Pete Hancock. Society members are earnestly recommended to use it to keep up to date with current affairs, to look-up past issues of the quarterly publications, the bird of the month, news events, Tickbird and to acquire membership forms for prospective members. We have plans to include advertising material in the future.

BLB through the enthusiastic office of Ian White has initiated a photo-group on Flickr for photographs of birds of Botswana; those interested are encouraged to post their bird photos there, whether they are favourite shots or pictures of birds that need identifying. Photos of rarities or new birds for the national list can also be up loaded.

For the third successive year, BLB produced attractive calendars featuring the country’s birds and an innovation included the twelve important bird areas and a desk model. The talented committee responsible included Eugenie Skelton, Mary Lane-Jones and Sarah Banks, who together combined their many outstanding skills in producing calendars of which we were very proud. Sales were good, but the financial returns did not justify the efforts made.

Doreen McColaugh has continued with her outstanding efforts in **environmental education**. She liaises with DEA, Ministry of Education, University of Botswana, DWNP, Association of Environmental Clubs of Botswana (AECB) and other stakeholders to assist in environmental education training workshops and courses, ensuring good environmental education practices.

Mary Lane-Jones was invited by the Botswana Philatelic Society to design a set of four **stamps of birds of concern** (Cranes and Flamingos) and this attractive and popular set was issued in June 2009 by the Postal Service.

BLB's major on-going out-of-school youth project is with **Cape Vulture Environmental Club** in Otse. The Club runs an annual essay competition and promotes an awareness of Cape Vultures as a tourist destination. The members of the Club are mainly unemployed and one of their members, Benjamin Noga, works as a volunteer in the Gaborone office.

All BirdLife partners in Africa meet every 18 months, in a forum called the Council for Africa Partnership (CAP), to review progress and agree on policy issues on the themes of species, sites, habitats and people. The 2010 meeting was hosted by BirdLife Botswana and held at the Chobe Game Lodge in the Chobe National Park. It was a huge success, with logistics running smoothly and fruitful discussions being held, often well into the evenings. The CAP meetings are a great occasion for networking with like-minded people facing similar challenges and opportunities. Dr Marco Lambertini, the Chief Executive of BirdLife International, complimented CAP by saying that its meetings were always vibrant, stimulating and enjoyable. Special thanks are due to the Management and Staff of Chobe Game Lodge for their unstinting commitment to making the workshop a success, and the International Organising Committee for putting together a thoroughly worthwhile programme. The conference was poignant in that Dr Hazell Thompson, who had led the African Secretariat since inception in 1997, attended his last CAP before being transferred to the Cambridge office to head up BirdLife International's drive to increase the world network of the Society.

Financial Management

Unfortunately we were let down at the last moment by our auditor, so these financial results remain unaudited. This will be rectified and the audited statements will be presented at a suitable forum within two months. The unaudited Profit and Loss Statement for the year January to December 2009, shows surprising results. It shows that we have an excess of income over expenditure of P798000 from an income of P2.685 million. Most of this can be accounted for expenditure which has taken place on major projects since then. In Gaborone the cupboard is empty. My thanks go to Ian White for his hard work in organising our financial affairs and keeping all of us under control. In Kabelo's absence, he has been my sounding board on many occasions. He has introduced new systems to allow us to track our finances electronically. Pete Hancock was ably assisted for much of the year by Lilian Costa on the administration side of the Maun branch. Dikabelo Koboyatshwene is playing an important role as Administration Officer for which

we are most grateful. A nagging problem all year has been the shortage of uncommitted funds. The first priority of the incoming Board should be to address this problem.

Our membership has stabilised during the past two years at about four hundred, and this is a much better representation of the demographics of Botswana's population. Thanks go to the tourist lodges who sponsor their guides and to Keddy and her assistants who successfully recruited many young people last year. We are planning to introduce a once-a-month Saturday walk for beginners which we hope will attract even more members. Mike Goldsworthy has overseen this membership portfolio in his usual very efficient manner.

Supporters

Thanks are due to a wide variety of supporters. Firstly our appreciation of the assistance and encouragement from the Ministry of the Environment, Wildlife and Tourism and their respective Directors has been gratifying. BLB has been fortunate in receiving very good support from government officials in opening workshops and training activities and launches of produced educational materials. We especially appreciate the close collaboration with DWNP and DEA in biodiversity monitoring and training.

We are especially grateful to our many supporters who bought calendars and supported us financially in so many ways. A list of these supporters will be provided in the next *Babbler*.

Social

The monthly walks around Gaborone have been as popular as ever, with 30 to 40 birdwatchers turning out regularly. Both Kasane and Jwaneng branches have held organised walks on special occasions. Successful camps were held quarterly throughout the year. These, too, have been well attended and it is encouraging to have enthusiastic campers once more in our midst.

Administration and staff

Our absentee-Director, Kabelo Senyatso, even though so far away, has played a significant and busy role in our planning and he has made an outstanding electronic contribution on a wide variety of subjects. We look forward to his return in December.

Three members of staff resigned in the last twelve months. They were marketing executive Molebi Mosokotso, head of PSPA project Boitumelo Sekhute-Batungamile and Virat Kootsitse, the IBA programme manager. We welcome

Justin Soopu in place of Virat and Pete Hancock is now responsible for the PSPA project, working from Maun. We value the administrative support he receives from Lilian Costa.

We welcome Yukiko Maki-Murakami who has been sponsored by JICA, the Japan International Cooperation Agency for two years. During her tenure her major tasks will be to develop an Environmental Education programme and to design a Birder Friendly Tourist Establishment scheme within BirdLife Botswana. We also welcome the following volunteers and interns to our Gaborone office: Lesego Ratsie, Dibelang Raphakile and Tania Monggae. They are rapidly making their mark.

Our appreciation goes to Angelika Orford for handling the buying for our shop at the Craft Market in Gaborone. We thank Jenny Heeley for all her assistance in retailing our wares at the Craft Centre in Broadhurst.

Thanks go to our Board and Gaborone committee for all their much appreciated work. I would like to pay special tribute to Ian White our Treasurer, Dr Stephanie Tyler, the editor of the *Babbler* and co-ordinator of the two water bird counts during the year, Eugenie Skelton for producing the *Familiar Chat* and Doreen McColaugh for her unstinting work in the education field. We have valued the dynamic contribution and artistic skills of Mary Lane-Jones over a long period and thank her for her enormous contribution in so many areas of our business. The efforts of the three wise men, Mike Goldsworthy, Chris Brewster and Mike Barclay in their various portfolios have been most valuable. Particular mention should be made of the support received from Peter Laver and Lyn Francey in Kasane, without whom we could not have organised CAP.

Mention must be made of the continued excellent support we receive from our Secretariat in Nairobi. We congratulate Dr Hazell Shokellu Thompson, the former Regional Director for BirdLife in Africa, on his new appointment with BirdLife International in the UK, and thank him for all the support, guidance and inspiration he has given to us since we joined the Partnership. We welcome Julius Arinaitwe in his place, and having worked with him for many years we know that the Secretariat is in good hands. We so appreciate the support given by Jane Gaithuma, Thandiwe Chikomo, Edith Onyango, Antoinette Otieno and Paul Ndanganga in our Nairobi office. The contribution to birding in Africa by these young people and their personal productivities is immense. (Incidentally we have applied for full partner status with BirdLife International.) We must mention the huge contribution made by the RSPB. They are always there for us in so many ways, big and small. It is impossible to mention all the names of role players, but everyone at Sandy should know how much we appreciate their contributions.

Conclusion

We have continued to grow in so many ways. We look forward to welcoming Kabelo home with his doctorate in ornithology. Our staff is growing in competence and confidence daily. The two major projects are stimulating, giving us access to so many people and affording us excellent opportunities to interact with government, communities and the public. We have made excellent contacts and enjoy a sound reputation with school environmental clubs and their members. We have good ideas for the future but we desperately need uncommitted funds. We look forward to a challenging and stimulating birding future. BirdLife Botswana is flying.

Harold Hester (Chairman)



An example of leucism: A Brown-hooded Kingfisher recently seen at Phakalane golf course

Photo: Ian White

Waterbird Counts in Botswana from July 2008 to January 2010

Stephanie J. Tyler

This report covers two years from the winter count in July 2008 to the summer count in January 2010. Although most winter counts were done in July and most summer counts in January a few counts were made in June or August or in December or February.

COUNTS IN WINTER 2008

In all over 26,500 waterbirds were counted throughout Botswana in the dry season of 2008 with a staggering 11,000 of these on part of the Chobe floodplain.

Southeast Botswana

Waterbird counts around Gaborone in July were made at 14 sites (see Table 1). Numbers of birds were generally low because of so much water still being available but it is of note that the total number of waterbirds seen in the southeast was almost as high as the total in the Okavango Delta where many more sites and much larger sites, were surveyed. Bokaa and Thagale Dams did support high numbers of waterbirds (3,268 total) with some interesting species among them – Fulvous Duck, White-backed Duck and Black Ducks as well as good numbers of Southern Pochard - 344 at the two dams and 645 Red-billed Teal, 29 South African Shelduck and 14 Maccoa Ducks. Two Black Duck were also seen at Nnywane Dam. Tsholofelo Sewage Ponds with the adjacent corner of Gaborone Game Reserve were also productive and had the highest range of species anywhere in the southeast. The highest counts of Red-knobbed Coot were at Bokaa Dam (670), Thagale Dam (310) and Sojwe Pan (280).

At all sites 91 South African Shelduck and 119 Maccoa Duck were noted. Gamoleele Dam and Jwaneng Sewage Ponds held 54 and 32 Maccos respectively and both had 21 Shelduck. Very few flamingos were seen – just ten Lesser Flamingos (at two sites) and 58 Greater Flamingos (four sites).

Eastern Botswana

A count was made a Shashe Dam where waterbird numbers were quite low. A flock of 42 Great White Pelicans and two African Black Ducks were however, of note.

Makgadikgadi Pans

Only one area in the Pans was counted – from north of Sua Spit to the mouth of the Nata River. Of particular note were 50 adult White Pelicans and 140 chicks, two White-fronted Plovers, 31 Chestnut-banded Plovers and three Caspian Terns.

Chobe floodplain

A count of over 11,000 waterbirds was made along the Chobe River between Kasane and Simbizi (unfortunately the last section up to Ngoma Bridge was not covered) on 3 July. This floodplain is clearly Botswana's most important site for many waterbird species in the winter months. Mark Vandewalle wrote "The extent of mudflats and shallow pools left by the receding flood waters appeared to have a distinct influence on the numbers and species of birds counted on the Chobe River. The high numbers were accounted for by just a few species, namely White-faced Ducks, Reed Cormorants and African Openbill. The last two species occurred in particularly high numbers in the western parts of the river, possibly where large numbers of small fish were trapped in pools. All three species often occurred in large flocks, sometimes as many as 800 to 1000, which made any kind of accurate count difficult, especially when they were disturbed as by a Fish Eagle flying over. In such cases, we could only try and get a best estimate. Also, as previously experienced, the river in places is quite wide with a lot of dead-ground where multiple channels occur. Many birds occurred in these channels but were out of sight for the observers. Therefore, of the total number of birds counted many others were missed and these counts can at most be considered a 'best minimum' estimate of the total numbers of waterbirds on the Chobe River on the day of the count. It is conceivable that only as little as 60% of the actual numbers are counted."

Okavango Delta

A record number of sites – sections of river, lakes and lagoons – were counted in July and August. There was only a pool of several hectares left at Lake Ngami so the count was low and no species were present in large numbers. Sixteen White Pelicans were a bonus and the few Hottentot Teal and Southern Pochard at the lake were the only ones recorded in the Okavango Delta during July and August.

Five stretches of the Okavango River (condensed into three in Table 1), sections of the Jao River and the Phillip Channel all had rather few birds though the stretch of the Okavango from Mohembo to Shakawe Lodge was the most productive for Reed Cormorants, African Darters and white egrets. Likewise the Khwai River, Boro River and Maunachira River produced rather few birds. Two Wattled Lapwings on the Khwai were however, the only ones recorded in the Delta. Two additional rather similar counts on the north and south banks of the Khwai were made in late August. No Wattled Plovers were seen but six Slaty Egrets (from the south side) were of note. Counts in the three lagoons on the Maunachira, whilst not

particularly high, did include important colonies of breeding Marabou (103 birds) and Yellow-billed Storks (157).

The Thamalakane and Boteti Rivers between them revealed only about 1,400 waterbirds but of a good range of species. These included both species of pelican, albeit low numbers, Wattled Crane, Pygmy Geese (117) and African Jacanas (290) and Lesser Jacanas (2). Sites of particular note for high counts were from Xigera Camp to Simbira picnic site and especially the Jao/Kwetsani Flats where over 2,000 birds were noted. The Jao Flats also had the greatest number of species of any site in the Delta, including 57 Slaty Egrets, four Wattled Cranes, 64 White-backed Ducks, 131 Long-toed Lapwings, 17 African Snipe and two African Skimmers and a bonus, two Rosy-throated Longclaws. Observers on the Maunachira River were rewarded with many calling Red-chested Flufftails and in Jeri Jeri Lediba a mixed colony including over 100 Darters at nests, small numbers of Reed Cormorants, Grey Herons, Great Egrets, Rufous-bellied Herons and Black-crowned Night Herons. Two observers also flew low over the Gomoti River in gyrocopters and counted 1,404 'white' egrets in 34 km (excluded from Table 1). Over the Delta as a whole the five most numerous species were White-faced Duck (689), Reed Cormorant (526), Blacksmith Lapwing (1281) and African Jacana (871).

COUNTS IN SUMMER 2008/2009

Southeast Botswana

Bokaa Dam, as usual, was the most productive site for overall numbers and species. Of note here were over 300 Black-winged Pratincoles. However, Kgoro pan produced the only Black-necked Grebes and the only Marabou storks, 125 of the latter being a high count for SE Botswana. Other sites had rather few birds, perhaps because so much water was available to them. Maccoa Ducks were seen at only three sites – Gamoleele Dam, Moshupa Dam and Kgoro Pan, but birds were probably widely distributed at numerous small pans. It must be noted that unfortunately, no counts were made at Lobatse, Ramotswa, Phakalane or Tsholofelo Sewage Ponds.

Eastern Botswana and Makgadikgadi Pans

No count was made at Shashe Dam nor at Nata Delta but in the south of the pans, Mopipi Dam was full in mid December after a heavy localised downpour in November and counts of 1,000 Black-winged Pratincole, 1,500 Caspian Plover and 900 Kittlitz's Plover contributed to the high total of over 4,000 birds. Rysana Pan was dry apart from one small pool to the west, which had large numbers of birds including 100 Chestnut-banded Plovers and 80 Hottentot Teal.

Chobe River

The Chobe River from the old entrance gate on the Park boundary at Kasane up to Ngoma Bridge was counted by two teams of observers. Summer counts along the Chobe River are always much lower than those in the winter when floodwaters from the Zambezi push up the Chobe. However, a respectable total of over 4,000 birds was achieved. Cattle Egrets (990), African Openbills (706) and Blacksmith Lapwings (641) were the most numerous species but of interest too were 38 African Fish eagles, 17 Long-toed Lapwings, two Wattled Lapwings and two Lesser Moorhens.

Okavango Delta

First and foremost in the league table of sites with the highest numbers of birds and the most species was Lake Ngami. A count of almost 28,500 birds was made in late December 2008. Red-billed Teal (19,000 birds) was the most numerous species with Black-winged stilts (1,500), Whiskered Terns (1,200), Blacksmith Lapwing (810), Ruff (780) and Little Egrets (560), Fulvous Ducks (550) and White-faced Ducks (540) all common. Of note were 18 African Skimmers, 13 Grey-headed Gulls and 10 Black-tailed Godwits.

The Thamalakane River produced over 2,000 birds but 1,286 of these were Cattle Egrets. Maun Sewage Ponds whilst not strictly part of the Delta, does attract many waterbirds from elsewhere in the north. Two White-fronted Plovers were seen, a regular occurrence at the ponds, whilst a rarity for Botswana, a Garganey, was noted among a group of Hottentot Teal. A huge stretch of the Okavango River and associated channels was surveyed. Over 2,000 birds were noted although few species were present in high numbers. Counts were dominated by African Darters, Reed Cormorants and Cattle Egrets but an Osprey, small numbers of Pygmy Geese, Allen's Gallinule, Purple Swamphen and Lesser Moorhens were among 41 species on the river. Unfortunately a count along the Khwai River was prevented by the high water levels in the area. Other sites produced rather few birds.

COUNTS IN WINTER 2009

Southeast Botswana

The unseasonal rain in June meant that many dams held water and birds therefore were well distributed. Bokaa Dam was the only site holding more than 1,000 birds. It also held the most species - some 34 species – although the same number was noted at Phakalane Sewage Ponds.

At all sites a total of 133 Great crested Grebes were reported (breeding at Bokaa Dam) but only one Black-necked Grebe, the latter at Lobatse Sewage Ponds. There were three Purple Herons, two at Notwane Dam and one at Phakalane Sewage Ponds, and a single Little Bittern, at Notwane dam. In all 87 Maccoa Ducks were counted but 77 of these were all at Moshupa Dam. Two Fulvous Ducks were at Phakalane ponds and a White-backed Duck at Mogobane Dam. The only other species of note was a Wattled Lapwing, at Lobatse Sewage Ponds.

Eastern Botswana and Makgadikgadi Pans

Access was difficult at Shashe Dam because of high water levels and many small fields and fences near the dam shore and so the count of just over 500 birds was incomplete. Of note were 42 White Pelicans.

June rains had partially filled some outlying pans in the Makgadikgadi system such as Mea and Mokubilo Pans. Two Wattled Cranes at Mea Pan, 43 White Pelicans and 300 Greater Flamingos at Nata Delta and six Painted Snipe in shallow pans in the northwest of Rysana Pan were among the more interesting records.

Okavango Delta

Numerous sites were covered (see Table 1). Despite the amount of fresh water in the Boteti River a count from Moremaoto upstream to the junction with the Thamalakane revealed over 1,500 waterbirds, so making the Boteti River the single most important site other than Lake Ngami. The Okavango River in its entirety had rather few birds except for the section from Mohembo to Shakawe Lodge.

The most numerous species in the Delta as a whole was African Jacana (841) followed by Blacksmith Lapwing (745), White-faced duck (687) and Collared Pratincole (655).

Of note is that only one Pink-backed Pelican and two Lesser Jacanas were found in the Delta, both the latter at Meya Pan near Fourth Bridge. No Black Egrets were seen (three on the Linyani/Savuti channel) although two 'dark egrets' on the Okavango River may have been these or Slaty Egrets; just 58 Slaty Egrets were counted and 25 Wattled Cranes. White-backed Ducks (12 birds) and Southern Pochard (17) were few whereas 302 Pygmy Geese were found. Numbers of duck will undoubtedly build up as summer approaches but their virtual absence and that of Lesser Jacanas and Black Egrets suggest that these species may be spending the austral winter outside Botswana or in areas not counted (but see Lake Ngami account).

Lake Ngami was very difficult to access properly to do a complete count. A boat journey around it produced some results but an aerial flight over the leading edge

where water had flooded *Acacia* scrub revealed numerous Grey Herons and Little Egrets and thousands of stilts which were not visible by boat. Access at various points along the edge produced some other surprises – an early Caspian Plover on 17 August and the first Wattled Lapwings seen at this site. Well over 10,000 duck were already present, mainly White-faced Duck and Red-billed Teal but several hundred each too of Fulvous Duck, White-backed Duck, Comb Duck, Southern Pochard and Pygmy Geese.

Chobe/Linyanti

Among the birds seen on a section of the Linyanti between Zibadianja hide and King's Pool and from there along the Savuti Channel to Mantswe Pan were two Wattled Cranes and 15 Wattled Plovers.

A count along the Chobe River from Kasane to Ihaha was productive with almost 6,500 birds although this included an estimated 1,000 White Pelicans just west of Ihaha. Of note too were five White-crowned Lapwings. White-faced Duck (1,699) and Red-billed Teal (1,082) topped the list with Egyptian Geese (661) and Reed Cormorants (418) also in high numbers.

COUNTS IN SUMMER 2009/2010

Southeast Botswana

There was an exceptional count by Chris Brewster of almost 6,000 birds at Bokaa Dam and almost 1,500 at nearby Thagale Dam and at Ramotswa Sewage Ponds, a new high for this site. Harold & Geraldibne Hester and Mike and Daphne Goldsworthy counted a range of sites. The most numerous species in the SE counts was White-faced Duck with over 2,000 counted; between 1,000 and 2,000 Red-billed Teal, Southern Pochard and Red-knobbed Coot were also seen. Overall, diversity was high too with 65 different waterbirds seen.

Eastern Botswana and Makgadikgadi Pans

A team of four surveyed Shashe Dam by a combination of methods, using a boat, vehicle and feet, and found well over 1,000 birds. Some 55 White Pelicans, 13 Pink-backed Pelicans and 20 Black Egrets were among the highlights there.

A part of Sua Pan was counted and the 87,000 plus birds comprised 80,000 Lesser and Greater Flamingos, over 2,000 Red-billed Teal, over 1,000 Black-winged Stilts and 650 Pied Avocets.

Okavango Delta

Rather few sites were surveyed by comparison with previous years and unfortunately no counts were made at many of the richest sites, notably Lake Ngami, Thamalakane and Boteti Rivers or in Moremi Game Reserve.

The Okavango River from the Namibian border down to Etsatsa Island and the Philipo Channel were surveyed and the stretch between Mohembo and Shakawe Camp was, as usual, by far the richest section with the highest number of birds and of species but 604 Cattle Egrets made up over 67% of the count. The only Lesser Jacana of the summer count was seen on this section and also Lesser Moorhen. Only the upper Boro from Tschau Island down to Xaxaba was counted and among the 500+ birds seen were 10 Slaty Egrets and 201 Collared Pratincoles. On the Jao Flats there were rather few birds but among them six Slaty Egrets, 17 Wattled Cranes and 28 Long-toed Lapwings. Along the Khwai River from North Gate to the Chobe N.P. boundary 400+ birds were noted with two Dwarf Bitterns of note. Maun Sewage Ponds produced an additional 11 species for the Delta summer count, including seven immature Greater Flamingos and a Pectoral Sandpiper.

Chobe Delta

Pete Laver organised a team of people to count the stretch of river from the old park entrance via Ihaha to Ngoma Bridge. Over 3,000 birds were noted of a wide range of species although no species were present in very large numbers. At 1,020 Blacksmith Lapwings headed the list. Summer numbers on the Chobe are always lower than in the winter when water backs up from the Zambezi to cover the floodplain.

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Table 1 Counts of waterbirds at sites in Botswana from July 2008 to January 2010
Numbers in parentheses refer to number of species at each site. (N.C. = no count).

	July 2008	Jan 2009	July 2009	Jan 2010
Southeast Botswana	6,790 (56)	5,314 (57)	5,403 (52)	14,412 (66)
Bathoen Dam	33 (9)	104 (17)	82 (13)	N.C.
Bokaa Dam	1,693 (31)	3,039 (44)	1,412 (34)	5,974 (53)
Gaborone Dam (part)	181 (12)	N.C.	136 (14)	N.C.
Gamoleele Dam	244 (15)	221 (22)	140 (20)	810 (29)
Jwaneng S.P.	379 (18)	N.C.	155 (11)	769 (17)
Kgalepitse Dam, Oodi	N.C.	N.C.	N.C.	527 (23)
Kgoro Pan	Dry	823 (29)	72 (9)	162 (8)
Leporung Dam	N.C.	N.C.	146 (17)	N.C.
Lobatse S.P.	N.C.	N.C.	126 (21)	653 (25)
Mabule Dam, Molopo	N.C.	N.C.	140 (21)	N.C.
Mahalapye S.P.	N.C.	N.C.	N.C.	445 (19)
Maokamatshwane Pan	31 (6)	172 (12)	4 (4)	85 (13)
Mogobane Dam	136 (15)	403 (18)	321 (23)	383 (22)
Moshupa Dam	173 (18)	193 (14)	260 (17)	507 (19)
Notwane Dam	18 (8)	N.C.	172 (25)	N.C.
Nnywane Dam	120 (17)	72 (12)	169 (14)	150 (16)
Otse Dam	11 (6)	8 (3)	11 (6)	15 (9)
Phakalane S.P.	N.C.	N.C.	317 (34)	N.C.
Phakalane G. C.ponds				38 (3)
Ramotswa S.P.	507 (22)	N.C.	693 (23)	1,454 (34)
Sojwe Pan	572 (19)	N.C.	153 (9)	819 (24)
Thagale Dam	1,575 (24)	279 (29)	555 (26)	1,481 (38)
Tsholofelo S.P./Gabs G.R.	1,117 (37)	N.C.	339 (25)	N.C.
Eastern Botswana				
Shashe Dam	423 (28)	N.C.	343 (22)	1,122 (43)
Makgadikgadi Pans	661 (26)	4,396 (22)	3,071 (44)	87,422 (18)
Mea Pan	N.C.	N.C.	598 (19)	N.C.
Mokubilo Pan	N.C.	N.C.	1066 (13)	N.C.

	July 2008	Jan 2009	July 2009	Jan 2010
Mopipi Dam	N.C.	4,216 (21)	N.C.	N.C.
Rysana Pan	N.C.	180 (2)	308 (12)	N.C.
Nata Sanctuary	661 (26)	N.C.	1099 (30)	N.C.
Gweta to Nata pans		N.C.	N.C.	N.C.
Sua Pan W. Sowa Town	N.C.	N.C.	N.C.	87,422 (18)
Okavango Delta	7,588 (68)	34,437 (88)	29,175 (59)	3,452 (61)
Boro River	615 (22)	N.C.	615 (23)	534 (24)
Boteti River	684 (28)*	934 (29)	1,595 (43)	N.C.
Jao Flats	2,028 (41)	74 (8)	936 (26)	290 (26)
Khwai River	97 (16)	N.C.	46 (10) 125 (21) in G.R.	402 (24)
Lake Ngami	386 (19)	28,461 (60)	15,108 (42)	N.C.
Kunyere**	N.C.	N.C.	115 (17)	N.C.
Linyanti River	N.C.	67 (13)	527 (30)	N.C.
Maun S.P.	N.C.	159 (19)	219 (13)	398 (23)
Moremaoto S.P. (Boteti)	N.C.	N.C.	21 (2)	N.C.
Maunachira R. Jere Jere – Tsetse Isl (75km)	109 (21)	N.C.	N.C.	N.C.
Maunachira R. (Xak-Gcob.)	52 (11)	52 (12)	64 (9)	N.C.
Gadikwe Lediba	185 (18)	73 (13)	29 (7)	N.C.
Gcobega Lediba	103 (8)	90 (17)	105 (11)	N.C.
Xakanaxa Lediba	283 (17)	114 (16)	36 (6)	N.C.
Okavango River Mohembo- Palm Island	415 (28)	1,133 (34)	951 (26)	892 (29)
Okavango River border- Mohembo	40 (6)	48 (15)	245 (14)	44 (9)
Okavango River from Palm Isl., Phillipa confl. – Pepere Isl.	103 (10)	984 (29)	443 (16)	346 (15)
Jao River	46 (6)	47 (7)	131 (16)	
Phillipo Channel	98 (9)	173 (15)		286 (15)
Thamalakane River	722 (18)	2,195 (31)	N.C.	N.C.
Xini Lediba, Moremi G.R.	157 (22)	N.C.	N.C.	N.C.
S. Gate to 3 rd Bridge incl. Xini Lediba loop	93 (19)	N.C.	67 (11)	N.C.
3 rd to 4 th Bridge	50 (10)	N.C.	281 (24)	N.C.
4 th Bridge-Xakanaxa	169 (15)	N.C.	138 (15)	N.C.

	July 2008	Jan 2009	July 2009	Jan 2010
Meya Pan	N.C.	N.C.	89 (19)	N.C.
Dombo to N. Gate	N.C.	N.C.	161 (28)	N.C.
Dombo Hippo Pool	16 (5)	N.C.	65 (14)	N.C.
Jere Jere Lediba	138 (7)	N.C.	N.C.	N.C.
Bodumatau lagoons	N.C.	N.C.	194 (26)	N.C.
Bodumatau floodplain	N.C.	N.C.	342 (20)	N.C.
Xigera Camp-Simbira picnic site	999 (30)	N.C.	714 (28)	N.C.
Chobe River	11,266 (38)	4,256 (42)	6,431*** (35)	3,309 (46)
Savuti Channel			249 (22)	

Boro River from Thamalakane confluence to Tchau Isl in July 2009

Boteti River from Raire up to Dikgathong in July 2008 and Jan 2009;

*Late June and July counts at Otse and Maokamatshwane Dams produced no or only two birds; August counts were a little higher and these are given in the table. Jan 2009. No full count at Rysana Pan. Okavango River from Palm Isl and to Pepere.

Kunyere** from Lake Ngami to Toteng and at Moshu.

***Chobe River Kasane to Ihaha in July 2009; other counts extended west to Ngoma Bridge



Pied Avocet

Photo: Ian White

Table 2. Counts of different species of waterbirds in five areas of Botswana in winter 2008 and winter 2009

	DRY SEASON/WINTER COUNTS											
	July 2008						July 2009					
	SE	E	M P	Ok. D	Chobe	TOT.	SE	E	M P	Ok D	Chobe	TOT.
Great Crested Grebe <i>Podiceps cristatus</i>	39					39	133					133
Black-necked Grebe <i>P. nigricollis</i>							2					2
Little Grebe <i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	667	45	47	40		799	643	28	151	5138		5960
Pink-backed Pelican <i>Pelecanus rufescens</i>				2		2				1	45	46
White Pelican <i>P. onocrotalus</i>		42	190	22	14	268		6	43	56	1117	1222
White-br. Cormorant <i>Phalacrocorax lucidus</i>	148	49				197	285	68	3	9		365
Reed Cormorant <i>P. africanus</i>	68	32		526	2179	2805	218	110		535	418	1281
African Darter <i>Anhinga rufa</i>	27	8		469	21	525	35	9		461	25	530
Grey Heron <i>Ardea cinerea</i>	37	15	6	119	71	248	68	17	20	280	62	447
Black-headed Heron <i>Ardea melanocephala</i>	48		5	2	1	56	33		5	30		68
Purple Heron <i>Ardea purpurea</i>	2			10		12	3					3
Goliath Heron <i>Ardea goliath</i>			1	7		8			3	4		7
Great Egret <i>Egretta alba</i>	4	1		101	81	187	14			164	116	294
Black Egret <i>E. ardesiaca</i>		1		20	23	44					37	37
Slaty Egret <i>E. vinaceigula</i>				66		66				62		62
Unidentified dark egrets										2		2
Yellow-billed Egret <i>E. intermedia</i>		3		16	75	94	2			22	1	25
Little Egret <i>E. garzetta</i>	6	5	4	83	139	237	10	2	2	291	103	408
Unid. White egrets				4		4				13		13
Squacco Heron <i>Ardeola ralloides</i>	4			211	19	234	8			403	7	418
Rufous-bellied Heron <i>Ardeola rufiventris</i>				23	1	24				22	3	25
Cattle Egret <i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	7	5	4	117	3	136	44	4	5	574	37	664
Green-backed Heron <i>Butorides striata</i>	1			36	2	39				95	3	98
Black-cr. Night Heron <i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	2			20		22	18			26		44
Little Bittern				1		1	1			4		5

	DRY SEASON/WINTER COUNTS											
	July 2008						July 2009					
	SE	E	M P	Ok. D	Chobe	TOT.	SE	E	M P	Ok D	Chobe	TOT.
<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>												
Yellow-billed Stork <i>Mycteria ibis</i>				166	176	342	12		1	51	146	210
White Stork <i>Ciconia ciconia</i>								2				2
African Openbill <i>Anastomus lamelligerus</i>				359	1562	1921				568	170	738
Saddlebill <i>Ephippiorynchus senegalensis</i>				14	2	16		3		28	10	41
Marabou Stork <i>Leptoptilos crumeniferus</i>				131	10	141				106	7	113
Hammerkop <i>Scopus umbretta</i>	4			18	11	33	6		1	51	8	66
Sacred Ibis <i>Threskiornis aethiopicus</i>	31	19		62	45	157	56	8	1	129	41	235
Hadedda Ibis <i>Bostrychia hagedash</i>	26			83		109	59			113		172
Glossy Ibis <i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>	6	17		64	11	98		1	1	114	230	346
African Spoonbill <i>Platalea alba</i>	31	17		41	22	111	81		1	44	95	140
Greater Flamingo <i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>	58					58	60		301			361
Lesser Flamingo <i>P. minor</i>	10					10	7					7
Wattled Crane <i>Grus carunculatus</i>				9		9			2	25	2	29
Fulvous Duck <i>Dendrocygna bicolor</i>	1			2		3	2				6	8
White-faced Duck <i>D. viduata</i>	750			689	4559	5998	237			4261	1704	6202
White-backed Duck <i>Thalassornis leuconotus</i>	2			74		76				212		212
Spur-winged Goose <i>Plectropterus gambensis</i>	117	15		99	33	264	126			218	23	367
Comb Duck <i>Sarkidiornis melanotus</i>	24	5		16	224	269	5		11	323	23	362
Egyptian Goose <i>Alopochen aegyptiaca</i>	188	24	3	78	686	979	415	12	52	181	667	1327
S. African Shelduck <i>Tadorna cana</i>	91					91	96					
Black Duck <i>Anas sparsa</i>	4	2				6		2				2
Cape Teal <i>Anas capensis</i>	215		41			256	120		90	7		217
Red-billed Teal <i>Anas erythrorhyncha</i>	1087	58	19	326	573	2063	591	23	1540	5481	1082	8717

	DRY SEASON/WINTER COUNTS											
	July 2008						July 2009					
	SE	E	M P	Ok. D	Chobe	TOT.	SE	E	M P	Ok D	Chobe	TOT.
Hottentot Teal <i>Anas hottentota</i>	20	3		2		25	15	3	31	23		72
Yellow-billed Duck <i>Anas undulata</i>	84			10		94	174			13		187
Cape Shoveler <i>Anas smithii</i>	84		4			88	179		49			228
Southern Pochard <i>Netta erythrophthalma</i>	465			11		476	218	2	58	217		495
Maccoa Duck <i>Oxyura maccoa</i>	119					119	87					87
Pygmy Geese <i>Nettapus auritus</i>				325		325				543		543
Unidentified ducks		14				14						
Red-chested Flufftail <i>Sarothrura rufa</i>				10		10						
Black Crane <i>Amaurornis flavirostris</i>	14			28		42	11			82		93
Moorhen <i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	24			2		26	42					42
Afric. Purple Gallinule <i>P. madagascariensis</i>	3					3	3					3
Red-knobbed Coot <i>Fulica cristata</i>	1518		55	1		1574	767		6			773
African Jacana <i>Actophilornis africanus</i>	10	9		871	110	200	31	15		1001	92	1139
Lesser Jacana <i>Microparra capensis</i>				5		5				2		2
Painted Snipe <i>Rostratula benghalensis</i>	2					2	2		6	5		13
Water Thick-knee <i>Burhinus vermiculatus</i>				6	10	16			1	37	2	40
Black-winged Stilt <i>H. himantopus</i>	204	8	9	173	109	503	168		344	2566	64	3142
Pied Avocet <i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>	12		27	11		50	6		23			29
Collared Pratincole <i>Glareola pratincola</i>				336	2	338			10	955		965
Three-banded Plover <i>Charadrius tricollaris</i>	120	4	2			126	55	4	1	20		80
Kittlitz's Plover <i>C. pecuarius</i>	109		5	18		132	34		4	3		41
White-fronted Plover <i>C. marginatus</i>			2			2						
Chestnut-band. Plover <i>C. pallidus</i>			31			31			1			1
BlacksmithLapwing <i>Vanellus armatus</i>	253	11	15	1281	256	1816	188	19	126	1402	218	1953
Crowned Lapwing <i>V. coronatus</i>	2			21	18	41	8	2	27	5	29	71
Long-toed Lapwing <i>V. crassirostris</i>				137	5	142				93	5	98
White-crowned Lapwing <i>V. albiceps</i>											5	5

	DRY SEASON/WINTER COUNTS											
	July 2008						July 2009					
	SE	E	MP	Ok. D	Chobe	TOT.	SE	E	MP	Ok D	Chobe	TOT.
Wattled Lapwing <i>V. senegallus</i>				2		2	1					1
Grey Plover <i>Pluvialis squatorola</i>								1				1
Wood Sandpiper <i>Tringa glareola</i>	6			3		9			1	426	4	431
Marsh Sandpiper <i>T. stagnatilis</i>	3	1		1		5			8			8
Greenshank <i>T. nebularia</i>	7	1	6	21	1	36		1	84	209		294
Common Sandpiper <i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	1		10	8		19				3		3
Curlew Sandpiper <i>Calidris ferruginea</i>									2			2
Ruff <i>Philomachus pugnax</i>	9		17	10		36			43	205		248
Bar-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa lapponica</i>									4			4
African Snipe <i>Gallinago nigripennis</i>				19		19				19		19
Grey-headed Gull <i>Larus cirrocephalus</i>			43	1	127	171	3		2	1	33	39
Caspian Tern <i>Sterna caspia</i>			3			3						
Whiskered Tern <i>Chlidonias hybrid</i>			110	11	60	181				40	11	51
White-winged Tern <i>C. leucopterus</i>	6					6	6		2			8
African Skimmer <i>Rynchops flavirostris</i>				2	3	5					25	25
African Marsh Harrier <i>Circus ranivorus</i>				12		12				17	1	18
African Fish Eagle <i>Haliaeetus vocifer</i>	10	9	2	124	22	167	11	4	2	187	10	214
TOTAL	6790	423	661	7588	11266	26728	5403	343	3071	29175	6680	44672



Comb Duck
Photo: Ian White

Table 3. Counts of different species of waterbird in five areas of Botswana in the summers of 2008/2009 and 2009/10

Species	WET SEASON/SUMMER COUNTS										
	January 2009					January 2010					
	SE	M P	Ok. D	Chobe	TOT.	SE	E	M P	Ok D	Chobe	TOT
Great Crested Grebe					0	7					
Little Grebe	23		355		378	684	6		14		704
Black-necked Grebe	3				3						
Pink-backed Pelican			68		68	1	13				14
White Pelican			80		80		55				55
White-br. Cormorant	11			2	13	33	11				44
Reed Cormorant	17		665	46	728	22	38		229	75	364
African Darter	2		598	30	630	12	13		176	27	228
Grey Heron	59		119		178	67	11			5	83
Black-headed Heron	21				21	14	5				19
Purple Heron			20		20				4		4
Goliath Heron			3	2	5				5	1	6
Great Egret	14		113	68	195	9	5		29	127	170
Black Egret	3		11	38	52	32	20		2	10	64
Slaty Egret			7	3	10				22	2	24
Yellow-billed Egret	5		162	64	231	4	2		41	84	131
Little Egret	58		579	56	693	70	18	1	14	114	217
Squacco Heron	1		120	51	172	7	2		100	36	145
Rufous-bell. Heron			3		3				4		4
Cattle Egret	457		2595	990	4042	748	366		789	472	2375
Green-backed Heron			81	1	82				15	2	17
Black-cr. N. Heron			192		192		11		52		63
White-back. N Heron			4		4				3		3
Dwarf Bittern							6		2		8
Little Bittern			1		1						
Yellow-billed Stork	27		44	1	72	54	9			3	12
White Stork	36		4	7	47	3			2		5
African Openbill			298	706	1004	3			277	247	527
Saddle-billed Stork			1		1				2	1	3
Black Stork						2					2
Abdim's Stork	11	3			14						

Species	WET SEASON/SUMMER COUNTS										
	January 2009					January 2010					
	SE	MP	Ok. D	Chobe	TOT.	SE	E	MP	Ok D	Chobe	TOT
Marabou Stork	125		28	13	166	1	1		5	36	43
Hammerkop			9	15	24	7			16	15	38
Sacred Ibis	17		43	51	111	9			5	23	37
Hadeda Ibis	18		19		37	29			8		37
Glossy Ibis	11		301	67	379	5	1			33	39
African Spoonbill	54	2	3	3	62	107	86	2		3	198
Greater Flamingo	6	1	11		18	198	34	15000	7		15239
Lesser Flamingo								65000			65000
Wattled Crane			7		7				19		19
Grey Crowned Crane <i>Balearica regulorum</i>											
Fulvous Duck			550	7	557	34					34
White-faced Duck	204		696	122	1022	2304	27		198	49	274
White-backed Duck			30		30	13					13
Spur-winged Goose	38		107	82	227	145	13		53	80	146
Comb Duck	30		46	361	437	132			22	129	283
Egyptian Goose	355		52	272	679	694	66		46	287	1093
S.African Shelduck	54				54	174					174
Black Duck						5					5
Cape Teal	2				2	324		400	41	3	768
Red-billed Teal	109	240	19049	52	19450	1634	128	3500	32	120	5414
Hottentot Teal	5	80	262		347	43	14	300	28	4	389
Garganey			1		1						
Yellow-billed Duck	38		14		52	194					194
Cape Shoveler	20		7		27	98					98
Southern Pochard	57		166		223	1391	5		8	2	1406
Maccoa Duck	14				14	72					72
Pygmy Geese			168	6	174				30		30
Unidentified duck			4		4						
African Crake			1		1						
Black Crake			20	1	21	2	3		8	1	14
Moorhen	3		74		77	13					13
Lesser Moorhen			1	2	3				2		2
Lesser Gallinule			4		4				1		1

Species	WET SEASON/SUMMER COUNTS										
	January 2009					January 2010					
	SE	M P	Ok. D	Chobe	TOT.	SE	E	M P	Ok D	Chobe	TOT
Purple Gallinule			1		1						
Red-knobbed Coot	616		327		943	1548	4				1552
African Jacana	2		301	318	621	11	19		155	119	304
Lesser Jacana			7		7				1		1
Painted Snipe			6		6			2		1	3
Water Thick-knee			24	28	52		2		43	17	62
Black-winged Stilt	77	57	1500	4	1638	445	23	1100	19	11	1598
Avocet	10		17		27	18		650	2	1	671
Collared Pratincole			16	25	41				229		229
Black-w. Pratincole <i>Glareola nordmanni</i>	306	1000	200		1506	181					181
Three-banded Plover	254	3	6	1	264	21	3				24
Kittlitz's Plover	9	900	7		916	52	2	1	8		63
Ringed Plover	26	3	5		34	39			4		43
White-fronted Plover		2	3		5				2		2
Chestnut-band. Plover		123			123			13			13
Grey Plover			2		2						
Caspian Plover <i>Charadrius asiaticus</i>		1500			1500	16					16
Blacksmith Lapwing	284	80	197	641	1202	429	27	3	358	1021	1838
Crowned Lapwing			22		22	6				1	7
Long-toed Lapwing			18	17	35				44	2	46
White-cr. Lapwing			1		1						
Wattled Lapwing			4	6	10				2		2
Wood Sandpiper	138	120	200	24	482	170	17		45	20	252
Green Sandpiper <i>Tringa ochropus</i>											
Marsh Sandpiper	5	1	7		13	32	6		6	1	45
Greenshank	17	100	9	2	128	34	19	10	4	3	70
Common Sandpiper	13		14	28	55	49	12		16	35	112
Curlew Sandpiper	511	3	12		526	527					527
Little Stint	243	26	11		280	231	1	800	34		1066
Ruff	834	150	780	5	1769	944	1	100	91	59	1195
Pectoral Sandpiper	1		1		2				1		1
Unid. Waders			2		2				30		30
Black-tailed Godwit			10		10	2					2

Species	WET SEASON/SUMMER COUNTS										
	January 2009					January 2010					
	SE	MP	Ok. D	Chobe	TOT.	SE	E	MP	Ok D	Chobe	TOT
African Snipe									1		1
Grey-headed Gull	2		13		15	5		40		1	46
Caspian Tern	1				1	2					2
Whiskered Tern	8	1	1255		1264	12	12		14		38
White-winged Tern	42	1	157		200	235		500			735
African Skimmer			18		18						
African Marsh Harrier			10		10					1	1
W.Marsh Harrier <i>Circus aeruginosus</i>											
African Fish Eagle	3		77	38	118	4	5		32	25	66
Osprey			1		1						
TOTAL	5,314	4,396	34,437	4,256	48,403	14,412	1,122	87,422	3,452	3,309	109,717



African Openbill
 Photo: Cheryl Carolus

Some sightings at Masetlheng Pan in the Kalahari

Maria Eifler

I camped with students from 5 to 16 December 2009 on Masetlheng Pan (in 2320D2) in the Kaa Kalahari Concession Area, north of the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park; the closest village is Ngwatle, about 20 km east of the pan. There was some very heavy rain at the beginning of our stay which resulted in the presence of a water hole on the pan; this attracted some interesting avian visitors:

An African Openbill, *Anastomus lamelligerus*, remained on the pan for about 24 hours beginning mid-day on 9 December. It roosted overnight in a tree on the edge of the pan near our campsite. This is an interesting record as Openbills in Botswana occur almost exclusively in the wetlands of the north. There has been an occasional record of a vagrant in southern Botswana, mainly in the Gaborone area. One White Stork, *Ciconia ciconia*, was there throughout the day for the duration of the time we were there when the water hole was present (8-16 December).

We saw 16 individual Bateleurs *Terathopius ecaudatus*, seven on 12 December and nine on 13 December; on both days the birds appeared at around 13h00. On both days two individuals were adults and the rest were juveniles. Three Lappet-faced Vultures, *Torgos tracheliotos*, were there on 13 December from 13h00 – 14h00 in a large mixed flock with about 15 White-backed Vultures, *Gyps africanus*.

Two Secretary Birds, *Sagittarius serpentarius*, appeared on the pan each day from 9 to 14 December between 12h00 – 13h00. About 12 Kori Bustards, *Ardeotis kori*, were seen along the road in groups of up to three as we drove on six occasions to and from the pan to Hukuntsi. We also saw a Double-banded Courser at its nest with one egg away from the pan.

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Editor: *Maria's record of an African Openbill in SW Botswana is only the second ever record for this part of the country, the first being noted on the Molopo River by Penry (1994) in his Bird Atlas of Botswana. It is interesting that her sighting coincided with an invasion of Openbills into South Africa. Trevor Hardaker in the SA Rare Bird News Reports (from 21 December 2009 to March 2010) noted numerous out of range reports of one to four, occasionally 20 to 200 African Openbills, with some even in the Western Cape.*

Tachila Nature Reserve – an update

Nicky Bousfield

Tachila Nature Reserve, the recently proclaimed, community based, nature reserve, situated just 5 kms south of the city of Francistown is rapidly becoming known not only nationally but also internationally. This unspoiled real estate, bordered on the east by a perennially flowing Tati river boasts 8 different major habitats. The reserve, 8200 hectares in extent, is covered in almost pristine natural vegetation. Historically this beautiful bush country supported a remarkable range of Africa's game species. It still is home to a great variety of birds as well as smaller game species such as Caracal, Civet, and Genet, Brown and Spotted Hyena, Porcupines, Antbears, mongooses, Leopards, snakes and tortoises as well as Kudu, Impala, Bushbuck, Duiker, Steenbuck, Klipspringer, Warthog, Bushpig. Chacma Baboons and Vervet Monkeys. The management plan includes the re-introduction of most of the larger mammals that historically occurred here, as soon as the perimeter game fence is completed.

As a result of the permanent water flowing down the Tati River, a wetland area is developing bringing in bird species that would not have occurred here in a seasonal river scenario.

One of the prime objectives of this Nature Reserve is to bring into living existence, the translation of the Kalanga name 'Tachila' which means 'Saviour of All Forms of Life'. The second most important goal is to provide education in an environmental context, for the young but also for the adults. It is the Trustees' belief that conservation grows from education.

Recently, the Tachila Board was approached by an internationally acclaimed environmental education organization, based in Florida USA, with an invitation to join their vibrant and exciting programme. A workshop was held in Francistown, attended by 120 teachers and educationists. As a consequence co-ordinators from Tachila Nature Reserve participated in a more detailed workshop in Florida in January. The EE programme known as Fairchilds Challenge will be introduced to Francistown schools from the start of the 2010 academic year. Avian interest and education will be enhanced by tools such as bird ringing demonstrations, museum exhibits and the construction of a rehabilitation facility for injured and orphaned birds.

The Tachila Board has been approached by a Scientific Research body based in Costa Rica, to permit the establishment of an international class research centre

within the reserve. The delegates traveled to most parts of Botswana and felt that Tachila would admirably suit the needs of such an establishment. Satellite centres would in all probability be based elsewhere and feed into the main research centre. Government and the University of Botswana have been made aware of the proposal. This would be the first research centre of this class in Southern Africa and would put Tachila on the international research map.

Currently a Tachila Bird List is being drawn up. Some of the more unusual birds recorded to date are:- Kurrichane (Little) Buttonquail *Turnix sylvaticus*; Giant Kingfisher *Megaceryle maximus* – breeding; Verreaux's Eagle Owl *Bubo lacteus* – breeding; Freckled nightjar *Caprimulgus tristigma*; Kori Bustard *Ardeotis kori*; Red-crested Korhaan *Lophotis ruficrista*; Bronze-winged Courser *Rhinoptilus chalcopterus*; Three-banded Courser *Rhinoptilus cinctus*; Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*; African Fish Eagle *Haliaeetus vocifer* – breeding; Verreaux's (Black) Eagle *Aquila verreauxii* – breeding; African Hawk-Eagle *Aquila spilogaster* – breeding; Dwarf Bittern *Ixobrychus sturmii*; Boulder Chat *Pinarornis plumosus*; Short-toed Rock Thrush (eastern race) *Monticola brevipes*.

Postscripts: On 30 January 2010 we climbed Wolf 1 koppie on Tachila where there are numerous Rock Hyrax and a Black Eagle kept circling round in majestic manner. A week ago I saw an immature against the blue sky. Three years back, at the same sight we saw a pair carrying nesting material.

On 5 March, I had the pleasure of taking John Smiley and daughters on an early morning drive to Tachila. John runs the White Mountain Research centre in USA and is an entomologist. It was a cloudy calm morning with sporadic light drizzle. At about 10h00 on our way out of Tachila, we came across a young Tawny Eagle – bronze/sienna colour – on the road immediately in front of the car. Then we saw that there was a bigger raptor clutching prey in its right foot which the Tawny Eagle *Aquila rapax* was after pilfering. At first sight I thought it was a juvenile Martial Eagle *Polemaetus bellicosus*, but as it struggled up, weighed down by its prey, it landed in a nearby tree. It was an Osprey. Black stripe through eye and fierce yellow eye were clearly seen. The prey was indistinct to the extent of not being able to establish species but almost certainly a francolin. An Osprey was recorded at nearly the same spot on Big Birding Day 18 November 2000.

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Breeding Pink-backed Pelicans *Pelecanus rufescens* at the Kanana Heronry

On 21 October 2009 I visited the heronry at Lediba la Dinonyane in the Kanana (Xugana) area of the Okavango Delta at S19.50188°, E22.85232° (see Tyler & Hancock 2006). There were the usual nesting African Darters *Anhinga rufa*, Reed Cormorants *Phalacrocorax coronatus*, Yellow-billed Storks *Mycteria ibis* and Marabou Storks *Leptoptilos crumeniferus* and Great Egrets *Egretta alba* nesting atop the Water Fig *Ficus verruculosa* and Waterberry *Syzygium spp* trees in the lagoon but what particularly caught my attention were the impressive numbers of Pink-backed Pelican *Pelecanus rufescens* nests. I estimated there were at least 40 nests of this relatively uncommon pelican species. Each nest had one to three (mostly fairly well developed) chicks.

The Kanana heronry, in 2009, supported more nesting aquatic species than the Gcobega and Gcadikwe heronries in the Maunachira Channel of the Okavango Delta and is clearly of great importance as a nesting site for the species it attracts, in particular the range-restricted Pink-backed Pelican.

Reference

Tyler, S.J. & Hancock, P. 2006. Heronries in Botswana. *Babbler* 48:18-39.

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Rufous-eared Warblers *Malcorus pectoralis*: new localities

Whilst in the *Deception Valley* area of the northern Central Kalahari Game Reserve in 1995, I saw what appeared suitable habitat for Rufous-eared Warblers *Malcorus pectoralis*. I searched for them and found them there, this representing a major northern extension of their then known range (Randall 2008, *Babbler* 51: 64).

On 4 October 2009, I found these attractive warblers at four out of eight randomly chosen sites in the *Passarge Valley/Sunday Pan/Leopard Pan* areas, between 25 and 55 km from *Deception Pan* (S21.50382°, E23.83249°) where I first recorded them 14 years previously, and proceeded eastwards along the sandy road to the Department of Wildlife and National Parks *Matswere Gate*. At S21.26694°, E23.89225° I stopped by a patch of Trumpet Thorn *Catophractes alexandri* of about 400 m² at the side of the road and played the birds' call. Immediately a pair appeared and vocally responded.

The next day, only a few kilometres from *Baines' Baobabs* in the Nxai Pan National Park, I stopped by another *Catophractes* stand (S20.07523°, E24.69456°), played the call, and again, out popped a pair, 5m from my vehicle. I had long suspected this species occurred in this park and the sighting represents another significant extension of their previously recorded range: this locality is 182 km north-east of Deception Pan (in a straight line).

In the light of the above, I conclude that these birds are likely to occur in other localities further to the east, north and west, especially in sizeable stands of *Catophractes* to which they seem particularly attached. They do occur in other vegetation but apparently more sparsely. There is suitable habitat for them, in patches, between Passarge Valley and the Namibian border. They are a fairly discreet species, and easily overlooked. I have several times found them in the margins of desiccated pans.

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Rufous-eared Warbler *Malcorus pectoralis*
Photo: Richard Randall

Observations at a garden in Maun in early 2010

I thought I would share our start to 2010 with you as our garden has been humming magnificently. Currently we have in our nest boxes two Woodland Kingfishers *Halcyon senegalensis* with chicks, a Grey Hornbill *Tockus nasutus* with chicks and at least one Crested Barbet *Trachyphonus vaillantii* with eggs. We have in addition to this two pairs of Golden Weavers *Ploceus xanthops* breeding in two separate parts of the garden, the one male has taken a liking to the Cycads over our pools and has over the last ten days built three nests there – I have spent several intriguing hours, without real success, trying to photograph the male flying in from across the pool with strips of nesting material that he strips from the Palm in our feeding circle. We have a Paradise-Flycatcher *Terpsiphone viridis* feeding three half fledged chicks, a White-browed Robin Chat *Cossypha natalensis* feeding two half fledged chicks, a Blue Waxbill *Uraeginthus angolensis* carrying nesting material into one of our creeper-covered *Hibiscus* bushes, a Red-eyed Bulbul *Pycnonotus nigricans* feeding chicks in the tip of one of our Acacia Paper-bark trees and at least four pairs of Red-eyed Doves *Streptopelia semitorquata* on eggs or chicks.

On the morning of 3 January Ali and I had morning tea and scones on the side verandah and watched the Paradise Flycatcher feeding her chicks while the Woodland Kingfisher spent five minutes bashing to death a huge beetle that seemed too big for it to eat, let alone its chick. However, it flew down to the box and the chick gobbled the huge insect up as easily as you would a single smarty! While this was going on the White-browed Robin-Chat flew in and demanded to be fed with mealworms which it twice took from my hand, neatly arranging a whole row of these (six) in its bill before flying off to feed his chicks only to return 10 seconds later for a repeat performance. The feelings that I have as this wild bird fearlessly collects mealworms from the palm of my hand cannot be easily expressed.

On New Years Day I spent an intriguing few hours trying to film the Grey Hornbill and was fortunate enough to watch it fly in with a large adult Chameleon, which it then beat to death on a branch. He then flew up to the nest box to deliver the large offering to his chicks. His first attempt was not successful and so he broke off and returned to his perch with the Chameleon. In his second attempt the Chameleon dangled from the chick's bill just before it dropped it. The male caught it before it hit the ground and flew straight back up for a third attempt which was successful and in due course the Chameleon was pulled through the narrow slit in the nest hole and disappeared.

The story does not end there as, as I sat watching this and was wondering how on earth the chicks would swallow something of that size, I was amazed, some ten minutes later, to see the Chameleon forced out of the box and dropped out. I immediately ran over and picked it up from where it had fallen and placed it in clear view of the returning male in the hope that he would see it and I would be given an encore. Sure enough, at his next flight in with food, he eyed the Chameleon after feeding what he had brought, flew down and proceeded to try and feed it back to the chicks no less than four times. Some wonderful pictures were taken. It appears that the chicks had decided that large Chameleons were not good New Years Day fare and refused to accept the offering. The male only broke off his attempts to change their minds when a young Black Sparrowhawk *Accipiter melanoleucus* flew into the nest tree with a dead dove in its talons, scattering every living bird out of the garden in a wild panic. This Black Sparrowhawk is only the third one I have seen in the garden and is in itself a wonderful sighting here in Ngamiland . It has been around for a couple of weeks now and his almost daily visits to our garden create pandemonium in all the birds. He sat there with the dove in his talons for a few seconds, saw me and was gone.

All in all I have had a wonderful 12 day break as there has really been no need to leave the garden. It has been a great start to the New Year.

Mark Muller & Ali Flatt, P.O. Box 101, Maun, Email: mullerflatt@botsnet.bw



Grey Hornbill
Photo: Mark Muller

Thrush Nightingales in Maun

A while ago, I mentioned that the wonderful explosion of secondary growth *Acacia* and *Combretum* along my Thamalakane River walk has brought in a wonderful array of birds in the last couple of years. Especially pleasing has been the fact that last year we had at least three Thrush Nightingales *Luscinia luscinia* along the middle part of the walk. I heard my first one on this walk two years ago. This year I mentioned to Richard Randall during the Xmas break that I had not yet heard any and he confirmed to me that he had one in his garden quite a long way up the river from our home. Amazingly on our very next walk, which coincided with a night of gentle rain, Ali and I heard four of them. Over the last week I have spent a bit of time working this bush and I can confirm that there are now at least nine of these birds in a 500 m stretch of dense secondary growth *Acacia* and I actually believe that it may be as many as 11 or 12 – very difficult to pin down individuals as I am counting on sound and in really dense bush they stop calling when I get close only to have another one start calling 60 m or so away. As I move over there that bird shuts up while the original one behind me starts again – so I can confirm nine individuals but am confident that the number is actually higher. This is, in my experience, an amazing density of these birds and to have them right on my doorstep is really wonderful.

Additionally Ali and I were in Moremi on the weekend 9/10 Jan and there were wonderful numbers of raptors, predominantly Lesser Spotted Eagles *Aquila pomarina*, but also great numbers of Woolly-necked Storks *Ciconia episcopus*. You will be happy that we actually tried to count two of the more significant flocks and had 66 and 204 in these two flocks (The photo is of 175+ birds out of the big flock), but there were in addition to these lots and lots of others around. The Lesser Spotted Eagles were seen from 20 km before South Gate (from Shorobe) all the way up to the Bodumatau loop roads. I cannot begin to estimate the numbers but I would guess that at least 200-300 were seen through the course of the day. The Woolly-necked Storks were in the same areas, especially on the ephemeral pans just to the NW of the Bodumatau loop road – they gathered to loaf around these pans in the heat of the day.

We have had wonderful “Grass” rain here and the country is green, lush and alive with birds all getting stuck into their breeding cycle – a really wonderful and dynamic time to be around in northern Botswana. When we went to Moremi at the end of December, it had rained heavily early in the morning and again a big storm around 10h00 in the Xini area – so the day was overcast and magic. There were huge termite emergences everywhere and everything was feeding off them –

including Cattle Egrets *Bubulcus ibis* and Egyptian Goose *Alopochen aegyptiaca*! Huge numbers of Black Kites *Milvus migrans* around as well of course, lots of Bateleurs *Terathopius ecaudatus*, Steppe Buzzards *Buteo vulpinus* etc. It was a magical day!

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Woolly-necked Stork concentration
Photo: Mark Muller

Striped Crakes near Maun

Richard Randall and I went out ‘craking’ on the weekend 6/7 March 2010 as I am now of the opinion that Striped Crakes *Aenigmatolimnas marginalis* are in no way reliant on early rains to move into Botswana. While we have had outstanding rains this year, 640 mm in my Maun garden (up to mid March), a lot of the rain has come gently over scattered periods and pans have not filled at all well. Until last week I had failed to find any Striped Crakes. However, three weeks ago we had a week of good solid rains that finally put some decent water into a couple of my regular Striped Crake pans. Richard and I got to one pan about seven to ten days after it filled and we immediately found two Striped Crakes, recorded by responses to tapes. So in early March these birds are still moving into suitable breeding habitat that has just been established. I am convinced that these birds will breed and I will see if I can find the nest, not an easy job for these ghostly and frustratingly secretive birds!

I also found a Dwarf Bittern *Ixobrychus sturmii* nest with one egg. Remember that this Pan has only held decent water for seven to ten days. Ali and I had been there ten days before and there was virtually no water. The nest shows how quickly the birds of the ephemeral pans will build and lay. We also found what I believe is a Greater Painted-snipe *Rostratula benghalensis* nest with two eggs.

Mark Muller, P.O. Box 101, Maun, Email: mullerflatt@botsnet.bw

African Pygmy-Kingfishers *Ispidina picta* in Botswana

This delightful little kingfisher is an intra-African migrant, arriving in Botswana as a summer visitor from October. Small numbers are also recorded from May to July. It could possibly breed in eastern and north-eastern Botswana, maybe in the Tuli Block as there are breeding records for adjacent areas of South Africa and Zimbabwe. Chris Brewster thought that they may have bred in Aardvark holes in Limpopo riverine woodland at Seleka Farm. There is a passage of birds through Botswana mainly in northeast and eastern Botswana from late February until April, sometimes to May. The wintering area is unknown but is somewhere to the north of the country. Pygmy-Kingfishers are recorded in the country every year but two BLB members had some very close encounters in early 2010.

Firstly, Mark Muller in Maun wrote “thought you might enjoy the attached pics – we found this little guy on our verandah early this morning (3 March) after I returned from walking my dogs. He had obviously been attracted overnight to the side verandah security light. He had become seriously entangled with cobwebs which seriously impeded his flying ability and he was nearly taken out by our little kitten. The bird was an adult (with a red bill) and after cleaning away all the cobwebs I took him down to the bush at the edge of the river and he flew off strongly. I wonder where he was coming from and what his destination was – we know so little about these birds. This is only the third time I have had Pygmy-Kingfishers in my garden and two of these have been birds attracted to our security lights at night. There is obviously a night-time passage of these little birds through this part of the world.”

Then Nicky Bousfield wrote on 12 March “On 19 February whilst bird ringing at Botshabelo (in Francistown), we processed four species of kingfishers including an immature Pygmy-Kingfisher (pale feather colours and black mandible). Historically a Pygmy-Kingfisher in the hand in Francistown is one that has been stunned by impact with a building or such like, whilst migrating at night. I rehabilitated an adult successfully, ringed it and released it some four years back, I think in November 2005, on the bird’s southbound journey. My thinking on the current encounter was that the bird was lagging behind its northbound flock, perhaps as a result of a minor impact or its lack of endurance as a juvenile. However, this hypothesis was marred by my next ringing effort on 6 March when two immature birds of similar age were captured in the same net, the one bearing my ring of 19 February. Could they have been bred here?”

Stephanie Tyler, Nicky Bousfield and Mark Muller



African Pygmy-Kingfisher in the hand
Photo: Nicky Bousfield



African Pygmy-Kingfisher in the hand
Photo: Mark Muller

A Rarities Report for Croaking Cisticola *Cisticola natalensis*

Two adults seen on 14th February, 2010 at 16h30 in Kazuma Forest Reserve, Chobe District S18.37127° E25.51208°

On the afternoon of 14 Feb 2010 I was driving with two clients birding in the Kazuma Forest Reserve, Chobe District, a few hundred metres from the Kazuma Pan National Park in Zimbabwe. I stopped to sweep the grasslands and immediately heard a call which I instantly recognised as the staccato croaks of a Croaking Cisticola. I have often heard these in Zimbabwe and in Natal. I saw a bird drop into some tall grasses and followed it there on foot. When I was about 15m from the grass patch into which it had dropped, two birds flew out, chasing each other and vocalising loudly with the same Croaking Cisticola calls. I had with me *Gibbons*' bird calls on my iPod and I played the call of the Croaking Cisticola – this matched perfectly with the birds displaying around me.

The birds, taking little notice of me, several times landed and flew up from grass clumps and I had good views of them. I noticed these features:

- large, relatively bulky cisticola
- brownish and black striped crown
- dark ear coverts and lores
- bill dark and robust
- rather broad greyish tail with black sub-terminal band, noticeably white-tipped
- greyish-brown upperparts with dark-centred feathers on upper back & wing
- pale rufous flight feathers
- flesh-coloured legs
- underparts pale buffy.

I have been many times to the Kazuma Forest area and have never recorded this species there before. I wonder if they are not irruptive into this border area when the conditions are right?

Richard D. Randall, Email: rrsafaris@yahoo.fr

Mortality in Palm Swift chicks

I found three Palm Swift chicks that had fallen out of their nests, which were in a palm tree *Washingtonia robusta* at the Sanitas garden centre in Gaborone on 28 April 2010. There had been a week of steady rain and up to ten swift nestlings had fallen to their death from their nests in the tree. Sadly the three rescued chicks did not survive. The Mokolodi Nature Reserve animal rescue centre tried to keep them alive but to no avail, even though they were fully feathered and about ready to fly. Their parents are still around the palm. I also noticed that there were Palm Swifts in the same palm trees in town at the First National Bank, Head office and am sure there were nest sites with chicks in them there also. I would think that most of this type of palm with its heavy dead leaf cover makes a perfect nesting site for these birds around Gaborone.

Ann Gollifer Email:annmarygollifer@yahoo.co.uk

Encounters with Gabar Goshawks

(This note was taken from the African Birding forum)

Camping for a week in Maun, Botswana in November 2009, in a Mopane forest, my closest neighbours, 50 cm above my roof tent, were three inhabited nests with Red-headed Weavers *Anaplectes rubriceps*. Other neighbours nearby was a colony of at least 50 breeding pairs of Red-billed Buffalo-weavers *Bubalornis niger*, two pairs of Lilac-breasted Rollers *Coracias caudatus* and at least two pairs of Broad-billed Rollers *Eurystomus glaucurus*.

Late afternoon on the third day, the Red-headed Weaver nests were attacked by two Gabar Goshawks *Melierax gabar*, a smallish grey morph male and a dark black, almost double sized, female. The Red-headed Weaver adults were silent and stayed at home, while the two birds of prey hung on the nests tearing them apart. However, to the rescue of the small weavers, came the larger Red-billed Buffalo-weavers, as well as the two roller species, birds that were continuously fighting over nest holes and territories the previous and coming days. This massive defence force proved to be too much for the Gabar Goshawks, which took to the wing, not attempting more attacks.

Dag Gjerstad, Cape Town

Summary of Category B Records

Compiled by

Chris A. Brewster and Stephanie J. Tyler

All records refer to the period Jan to Dec 2009 and Jan to May 2010. For species on the 'B' List, please see *Babbler* 40: 57-58 or visit BirdLife Botswana's website. The order of species given follows the new *Roberts' Birds of southern Africa*.

FULVOUS DUCK *Dendrocygna bicolor*

Two were at Phakalane S.P. on 5 July 2009 (JD), one at Bokaa Dam on 19 Sept and 18 Oct, 26 there on 10 Jan 2010 and 30 on 20 March, eight at Thagale Dam on 23 Jan and one at Sojwe Pan on 8 May (CAB).

WHITE-BACKED DUCK *Thalassornis leuconotus*

At Lake Ngami counts were made of 190 on 20 Jan 2009, 240 on 5 Feb and 34 on 14 Feb; on 29 July 174 were noted (RDR, PH). A single bird was seen at Mogobane Dam on 22 July (CAB) and two at Mokolodi N.R. Pools on 6 Dec (BMc & DMc, MGG *et al.*).

AFRICAN BLACK DUCK *Anas sparsa*

Pair on Notwane River near Ramotswa on 7 July (CAB), two at Shashe Dam on 26 July (PD'A *et al.*) and one in Nov at Kumakakwane where there was a pair on 26 Dec (IW, CAB). On 23 Jan 2010 two were on Thagale Dam (CAB).

MACCOA DUCK *Oxyura maccoa*

One male was at Hildavale and three at Kgoro Pan on 15 Feb 2009 (CAB). Counts in July 2009 included two at Phakalane S.P. on 5 July (JD), five at Jwaneng S.P. and 77 at Moshupa Dam on 20 July (MGG, DG, HH) and three at Lobatse S.P. on 26 July (SJT). One was at Mokolodi on 6 Dec (MGG *et al.*).

32 were on Sekagwana Dam near Modipe Hill on 24-26 Dec 2009 and in early 2010 (IW). A single male was on Bokaa Dam on 10 Jan (CAB), 34 at Gamoleele Dam on 10 Jan and 31 at Jwaneng S.P. on 19 Jan (MGG, DG, HH), four at Ramotswa S.P. on 17 Jan and one at Lobatse S.P. on 31 Jan (CAB). On 8 May 11 (seven males and four females) were at Sojwe Pan (CAB).

EUROPEAN ROLLER *Coracias garrulus*

17 were seen on the Nata to Maun road in mid Feb 2009 (MB). Four were seen along the main road north of Artesia and another four at Marakalalo Ranch on 26 March (CAB). One was west of Sowa Town on 4 Dec and two on western side of

Sowa Pan on 6 Dec; one west of Mmashoro, two near Khama Rhino Sanctuary on 7 Dec, and eight between Boatlaname and Hatsalatladi on 8 Dec. Along the Trans-Kgalagadi Highway, three were between Sekoma and Kang on 27 Dec, 11 between Kang and Okwa Valley on 28 Dec and seven near D'kar on 30 Dec (CAB).

AFRICAN PYGMY-KINGFISHER *Ispidina picta*

On 3 March 2010 one was found in a Maun garden (MM) and one was caught in Francistown on 19 Feb and recaptured on 6 March when a second bird was also caught (NB) – see note on page 40.

GREY-HEADED KINGFISHER *Halcyon leucocephala*

Two were at Marakalalo Ranch on 21 March 2009 (CAB). A displaying pair was seen at Kumakwane on 1 Nov (BLB). Singles were noted at Mokolodi NR on 31 Jan 2010 (CV), at Mokolodi on 31 Jan 2010 (CV) and on 15 March 2010 (ES).

THICK-BILLED CUCKOO *Pachycoccyx audebertii*

One was seen and photographed on 2 Nov 2008 at Ngamiland Toyota, Maun (Wessel and Twanett Steyn).

COMMON CUCKOO *Cuculus canorus*

One at Kubu Island on 7 Dec and one at Gwana on 5 April (CAB).

AFRICAN BLACK SWIFT *Apus barbatus*

Five were seen at Mogonye on 1 Oct (CAB).

DENHAM'S BUSTARD *Neotis denhami*

One was seen in at Moremi G.R. in Jan 2010 (RK).

KORI BUSTARD *Ardeotis kori*

No. Birds	Date	Location	Comments	Obs.
3	Mar 2009	Marakalalo Ranch 2327A4	Resident	HSw, MSw
1	19 June	West of Leporung		HB
3	30 July	NW Rysana Pan S21 12.822 E25 01.294	Emerging from scrub onto grassland in evening	SJT
1	31 July	NW Rysana Pan S21 12.230 E25 03.269	One foraging on grassland in morning	SJT
1	7 Aug	Pan near second bridge, Moremi G.R. S19 17.401 E23 24.063		SJT
1	11 Aug	Khwai floodplain at 19 08.747' 23 48.571'	On grassland in evening	SJT

No. Birds	Date	Location	Comments	Obs.
4	11 Aug	East of Jack's Camp (2025A3)	Group of 3 and a single bird	CAB
4	11 Aug	Eastern side of Makgadikgadi Pans N.P. (2025A1/2)	Group of 3 and a single bird	CAB
1	14 Aug	South of Xini loop in Moremi G.R. S19 23.548 E23 32.387		SJT
2	18 Aug	Near Sehitwa		CAB
	18 Aug	Rooibrak (2222C1)		CAB
17	29 Aug	Khutse Game Reserve	Groups of 11, 3, 2 and a singleton	CAB
1	8 Sept	Nxai Pan N.P. (1924C4)	Between old entrance gate and South Camp	PN
1 + 1	8 Sept	Nxai Pan N.P. (1924C4)	Just north of waterhole	PN
4 (3+1)	9 Sept	Nxai Pan N.P.	NW of waterhole in morning	PN
17	9 Sept	Nxai Pan N. P. (1924C4)	In small area – 3 singles, two 'twos', a group of 4 and 6 – all in afternoon	PN
?	28 Nov	Khutse G.R.		CV
2-3	Dec 09	Between Sojwe and Hatsilatladi		CAB
Ca. 12	5-16 Dec	Hukuntsi to Matlheng Pan	In groups of 3	ME
1	20 Dec	Khutse G.R. ca. 3 km from entrance gate	Flew over vehicle	ME
4	20 Dec	Khanke Pan, CKGR	On pan	ME
1	29 Dec	Lake Ngami	Grassed area by lake	CAB
1	30 Dec	West of Bodibeng		CAB
1	30 Dec	Gwana		CAB
2	30 Jan 10	Khama Rhino Sanctuary		MGG
1	20 Feb	Khutse G.R.		CV
1	18-20 Mar	Chobe N.P.		HH
1	2 April	Nxai Pan N.P.		CV
1	5 April	Khama Rhino Sanctuary		CV
1	4 April	Khang Pan (2323D4)		CAB
7	17 Apr	Khutse G.R.		CV
1	18 April	Tswaiing Pans (2524B2)		CAB

GREY CROWNED CRANE

Two were seen at Nata Sanctuary near Sua Pan on 23 Dec 2009 (AF).

WATTLED CRANE *Grus carunculatus*

A group of 60 was seen on 30 May 2009 ca. 2 km west of where the Boro River passes under the buffalo fence (BB, DB).

Pairs were noted at Mea Pan in the Makgadikgai Pans on 30 July 2009, along the Boteti River between Makalamabedi and Samedupi on 1 Aug, at Meya Pan in Moremi G.R. on 7 Aug and nearby closer to Fourth Bridge on 8 Aug, on the Khwai River near North Gate on 11 Aug and by the Khwai floodplain near Dombo pool on 12 Aug plus a single at a pan near Second Bridge, Moremi on 9 Aug (SJT, FB). Four were seen near Xini Lediba at S19° 23' E23° 32' on 13 Sept and two near Xakanaxa at S19° 12' E23° 24' on 15 Sept (PN). Seven were in Nata Sanctuary on 23 Dec 2009 (AF) and two on 26 Mar 2010 (CV).

AFRICAN CRAKE *Crecopsis egregia*

Two were seen at Lake Ngami on 29 Dec 2009 (CAB).

ALLEN'S (LESSER) GALLINULE *Porphyryla alleni*

At a camp between Gunutsugha and Seronga in 1822A4 birds were seen regularly in April 2009 with young noted in early May (GMcC). Other 2009 records came from the Thamalakane River at Sexaxa on 22 Feb (RDR), from the Okavango River where four were seen in Jan (PH) and at Nxamaseri on 12 Aug (SW).

GREEN SANDPIPER *Tringa ochropus*

Records of singles came from Mowana, Kasane and Sewage Ponds 10km west of Kang in Jan 2010 (per Trevor Hardaker).

RUDDY TURNSTONE *Arenaria interpres*

There was one at Bokaa Dam on 19 Sept 2009 and two on 18 Oct (CAB).

BLACK-TAILED GODWIT *Limosa limosa*

Two were at Bokaa Dam on 10 Jan 2009 and one on 20 March 2010 (CAB).

GREY PLOVER *Pluvialis squatarola*

One was at Nata Sanctuary on 10 Aug 2009 (CAB).

CHESTNUT-BANDED PLOVER *Charadrius pallidus*

A single bird was seen at Nata Delta on 10 Aug 2009 and 11 in northern part of Sowa Pan on 5 Dec (CAB). An adult was incubating two eggs at Nata Sanctuary on 3 April 2010 (SS).

WHITE-FRONTED PLOVER *Charadrius marginatus*

One was by the Okavango River between the Namibian border and Moheumbo on 7 Jan 2009 (PH), two were at Lake Ngami on 20 Jan 2009 (RDR) and one was at Coombe Farm on 7 Mar (MGG). One was seen at Lake Ngami on 29 Dec 2009 (CAB) and two at Maun S.P. on 10 Mar 2010 (RDR). Two were at Tshwaane Pan in 2323D3, outside of expected range of species, on 4 April 2010 (CAB).

BLACK-WINGED PRATINCOLE *Glareola nordmanni*

2009: In SE Botswana 304 were at Bokaa Dam on 18 Jan and two at Thagale Dam on 25 Jan (CAB). Following a count of 200 at Lake Ngami between 14 and 16 Dec 2008 (CAB), there were an estimated 2000 at the lake on 20 Jan and 440 on 14 Feb (RDR). There was a fly-past of ca. 100 at dusk along the vet fence north of Sowa and 20km east of Sowa Spit within Nata Sanctuary, Makgadikgadi Pans in early Dec (CAB). A group of 4-8 was seen at Segakwana Dam on 24 and 26 Dec (IW).

2010: 180 were at Bokaa Dam on 10 Jan and one at Thagale Dam on 23 Jan. On 14 March there were 75 at Bokaa Dam but they had gone by 20th (CAB).

AFRICAN SKIMMER *Rynchops flavirostris*

Few records with the high water levels but on the Okavango river where levels were dropping by mid July two were seen between Moheumbo and Shakawe Lodge on 18 July and on 19 July ten on the Okavango between Phillip Channel junction 1 and the Nxamaseri turn-off and three on the Phillip Channel between junctions 2 and 3 (PH *et al.*). At least one was seen at Nxamaseri on 12 Aug (SW). One or more birds were seen at Mowana Lodge, Kasane and on the Chobe River within the park on 26/27 Aug, 30 Aug and 7 Nov (HH, PL). In SE Botswana one was seen and photographed at Phakalane S.P. on 12 Oct 2009 (DD).

CASPIAN TERN *Sterna caspia*

One was at Bokaa Dam on 15 Jan 2009 (CAB). Two were at Lake Ngami on 29 Dec 2009 (CAB) and one was photographed at Phakalane S.P. on 23 Dec (FW). Two were seen at Bokaa Dam on 10 Jan 2010 and again on 20 March (CAB).

OSPREY *Pandion haliaetus*

One was in Chobe N.P. on 11 April (CV, DJ) and one at Lake Ngami on 29 Dec 2009 (CAB). In 2010 one was at Gaborone Dam on 3 Feb (IW) and one close to Francistown on 5 March (NB).

EUROPEAN HONEY BUZZARD *Pernis apivorus*

Singles were seen at Notwane on 12 April 2009 (AH, HH, GH), along the Old Matsiloje road SE from Francistown 2127B1 on 22 Nov (MSz), at Ksane on 19 Dec (RP) (an adult female in moult) and at Thagale Dam on 23 Jan 2010 (CAB).

HOODED VULTURE *Necrosyrtes monachus*

Records included three at a Giraffe carcass near South Gate, Moremi G.R. and four at a pan near Third Bridge on 9 Aug (SJT). Six (2 adults, 2 immatures, 2 unaged) were seen on 15 Sept between Xakanaxa and Paradise pools (PN). One was seen in Chobe N.P. on 14 and 21 Mar (HH *et al.*).

CAPE VULTURE *Gyps coprotheres*

Two at donkey carcass near Matabele, north of Gaborone on 21 Dec (CAB).

LAPPET-FACED VULTURE *Aegypius tracheliotos*

No. birds	Date	Location	Comments	Obs.
2	15 Feb	Kgoro pan		CAB
3	3 March	Tau pan, south of Tau Pan camp in 2123A4		GS
1	21 Mar	Marakalalo Ranch		CAB
2	15 May	Sowa Pan Mine		IN-S
1	28 Mar	Khutse G. R.		CV, DJ
3	28 May	8 km south of Ghanzi	At a road kill	BB, DB
pair	May	East of Deception in GKGR	Nesting	GHu
2	31 May	Boatlaname		CAB
1	12 July	Phakalane		CAB
1	31 July	Near Mopipi S21° 09.261' E24° 45.349'	With 14 White-backed vultures	SJT, FB
1	31 July	Near Mopipi at S21° 07.468 E24° 40.328		SJT, FB
2	31 July	Mopipi to Rakops at S20° 55.341' E24° 21.439'	With 2 Tawny Eagles	SJT, FB
1	31 July	Near Sukwane S20° 36.277' E24° 25.304'	With a White-backed Vulture	SJT, FB
1	1 Aug	Between Makalamabedi and Samedupi at S20° 12.055' E23° 42.072'		SJT, FB
2	12 Aug	Njuca Hills, Makgadikgadi Pans N.P.		CAB
2	17 Aug	Tale Pan	With 8 White-backed Vs	CAB
1	18 Aug	Near Schitwa		CAB
2	Sept	Khutse G.R.		CAB

No. birds	Date	Location	Comments	Obs.
1	9 Sept	Nxai Pan N.P. at 19° 54'S 24° 46'E	Sitting with wings outspread on pan	PN
6	Oct '09	Lethakeng	At carcase	DD
1	4 Dec	Kutamagore (2026D4)		CAB
1	7 Dec	Kubu Island		CAB
3	13 Dec	Masetheng Pan	With ca. 15 White-backed Vultures	ME
4	21 Dec	Near Matabele north of Gaborone in 2426C1	With ca. 70 White-backed and two Cape Vultures on donkey carcase	CAB
1	27 Dec	Kang road near Morwamosu		CAB
2	31 Dec	Near Ncojane Ranches in 2221C3		CAB
1	12 Jan '10	Near South Gate, Moremi G.R.		HH
1	30 Jan	Khama Rhino Sanctuary		MGG
2	21 Mar	Chobe N.P.		HH <i>et al.</i>
3	27 Apr	17 km west of Mopipi	With ca. 100 other vultures (White-backed) on dead donkey and horse	DMcC
1	8 May	North of Hatsalatladi in 2325C4		CAB
1	8 May	Sojwe Pan		CAB

WHITE-HEADED VULTURE *Trigonoceps occipitalis*

No. Birds	Date	Location	Comments	Obs.
1	11 April	Chobe N.P.		CV, DJ
1	8 July	CKGR		AF
	20 July	Mabuasehube		CV
1	9 Aug	Khwai River Lodge	One flying overhead	SJT
1	22 Aug	Khutse G.R.		CV
1 Male	29 Aug	Molose, Khutse G.R.		CAB
1	8 Sept	CKGR		AF
1	Sept	Khutse G.R.		CAB
2	19 Sept	Khutse G.R.		CV
1	21 Nov	Khutse G.R.		CV

BATELEUR *Terathopius ecaudatus*

All records of this species are of interest. Please if putting a list on Botswana Tickbird, remember to put how many birds you have seen.

Up to three birds were seen in Khutse G.R. on 28 Mar 2009, 18 Apr, 22 Aug, 19 Sept, 17 Oct, 21 Nov, 28 Nov, 20 Feb 2010 and 17 Apr (CV).

No. Seen	Date	Location	Obs.
1	20 Jan '09	Lake Ngami	RDR
1	7 March	Coombe Farm on the Limpopo 40km south of Martin's Drift (2427B1)	MMG
1	19 March	Elephant Sands	MSz
1 Female	12 May	Kutamagore (2026D4)	IN-S
1 Male	12 May	Dukwe	IN-S
2	15 May	Sowa Pan mine	IN-S
1	17 May	Mababe	PH
1 Immature	31 May	2325C3 (North of Bothlapatlou)	CAB
1	6 July	Elephant Valley Lodge, Lesoma	HH
17	18 July	CKGR; Also seen on 8 Sept in CKGR.	AF,MM
1+	20 July	Mabuasehube	CV
1 sub-adult	20 July	Marotswane (2325C3)	CAB, HB
1 Female	30 July	Between Orapa and Mopipi S21° 18.786 E25° 15.964	SJT
1	1 Aug	Elephant Valley Lodge, Lesoma	PL
1 Female	6 Aug	S19° 26.561 E23° 40.013 Near South gate	SJT
1	6 Aug	S19° 29.919 E23° 52.273	SJT
2	6 Aug	Xini loop, Moremi G. R. S19° 23.285 E23° 30.541	SJT
1 Immature	13 Aug	Near Phuduhudu (2024A2)	CAB
2 Immatures	13 Aug	West of Dombo pool, Moremi GR S19° 12.281 E23° 37.606	SJT
1 Immature	13 Aug	S19° 14.056 E23° 29.694	SJT
1 Adult Male	13 Aug	Near Fourth Bridge, Moremi G.R. S19° 14.520 E23° 24.449	SJT
1 Adult Female	13 Aug	Mboma Loop, Moremi G.R. S19° 15.156 E23° 19.712	SJT
1 Immature	14 Aug	Near South Gate, Moremi G.R. S19° 20.899 E23° 28.370	SJT
1	14 Aug	Near South Gate, Moremi G.R. S19° 21.236 E23° 29.244	SJT
1 Immature	14 Aug	Near South Gate, Moremi G.R. S19° 21.577 E23° 29.691	SJT
1 Immature	14 Aug	Near South Gate, Moremi G.R. S19° 21.765 E23° 29.882	SJT

No. Seen	Date	Location	Obs.
2 Immatures	14 Aug	Xini Lediba loop, Moremi G. R. S19° 22.121 E23° 29.602	SJT
1 Immature	14 Aug	Xini Lediba loop S19° 23.262 E23° 31.387	SJT
3	14 Aug	Xini Lediba loop S19° 23.201 E23° 31.739	SJT
1 Immature	14 Aug	Near South Gate S19° 25.733 E23° 38.692	SJT
1 Adult Female	14 Aug	South Gate to vet fence S19° 30.011 E23° 44.731	SJT
1 Adult, 1 Imm.	17 Aug	Between Sehitwa and Bodibeng	CAB
1	17 Aug	60 km N of Ghanzi	SJT
1	17 Aug	Kwaro Lodge, Kwando Concession	SW
1	17 Aug	Khama Rhino Sanctuary	HH
1 Adult, 1 Imm.	19 Aug	Along Trans-Kgalagadi Highway, south of Hanahai valley (2221B)	CAB
1 Adult	19 Aug	North of Kang (2322A4)	CAB
1 Adult, 1 Imm.	19 Aug	Along Trans-Kgalagadi Highway, near Kokong turn-off (2423A)	CAB
2	19 Aug	East of Sekoma S24° 33.239 E24° 06.365	SJT
1	24 Aug	Xigera in Okavango Delta	SW
1	26 Aug	Chobe N.P.	HH
2 Adult, 1 Imm.	29 Aug	Khutse G.R.	CAB
1	8 Sept	Nxai Pan between S. Camp and waterhole	PN
1	10 Sept	Between Nxai Pan turn off on main road and Makalamabedi vet fence	PN
1	11 Sept	Boro River floodplain north of Boro village	PN
1	13 Sept	Third bridge, Moremi G.R.	PN
1	14 Sept	Khwai area of Moremi G.R.	PN
1	15 Sept	Xakanaxa, Moremi G.R.	PN
1	Oct	At carcass at Letlakeng	DD
2 Immatures	3 Dec	Toutswe Hill (2227A1)	CAB
7 (2 Ad; 5 Imm.)	12 Dec	Masetlheng Pan, SW Botswana	ME
9 (2 Ad.; 5 Imm)	13 Dec	Masetlheng Pan	ME
Pair at nest	30 Dec	Gwana, 2221C1. Pair again present at nest on 4-5 April 2010	CAB
1 Adult	31 Dec	Along Trans-Kgalagadi Highway near Hanahais turn-off	CAB
1 Adult	31 Dec	Southeast of Tsootsha	CAB
1	12 Jan '10	Near South Gate, Moremi	HH
1	30 Jan	Khama Rhino Sanctuary	MGG
2 Adults	4 April	2 along Trans-Kgalagadi Highway between Kang and Takatswaane	CAB

No. Seen	Date	Location	Obs.
Singles	16-22 Mar	Chobe N.P.	HH <i>et al.</i> & CV
1	8 May	Near Boatlaname 2325C2	CAB

WESTERN MARSH HARRIER *Circus aeruginosus*

A female was seen on the Chobe floodplain near Kasane on 12 Dec 2009 (RP). A juvenile was seen at Gaborone G.R. on 21 and 22 Dec 2009 (IW).

AFRICAN MARSH HARRIER *Circus ranivorus*

A juv African Marsh Harrier was seen at Mokolodi G.R. on 17 Jan 2010 (MGG).

PALLID HARRIER *Circus macrourus*

One was seen in Khutse G.R. on 28 Nov 2009 and one at Nata Sanctuary on 26 Mar 2010 (CV).

BLACK SPARROWHAWK *Accipter melanoleucus*

A pair was seen near Ramotsa on 7 July 2009 (BLB).

JACKAL BUZZARD *Buteo rufofuscus*

An immature was noted at Mabule on 17 Jun 2009 (CAB).

STEPPE EAGLE *Aquila nipalensis*

Singles - near Lake Ngami on 30 Dec 2009 (CAB) and in Chobe N.P. on 21 Mar (HH).

LESSER SPOTTED EAGLE

One was west of Sowa Pan (2025B2) on 6 Dec (CAB). A large concentration of 200-300 birds was seen from 20km south of South Gate to the Bodumatau loop turns in Moremi G.R. on 9-10 Jan (MM, AF). One was seen in Chobe N.P. on 14 and 21 Mar (HH *et al.*).

BOOTED EAGLE *Aquila pennatus*

Singles were seen at Otse on 22 June, at Talana Fram on 2 Dec, at Toutswe Hill (2227A1) on 3 Dec 2009 and at Malotwana on 23 Jan 2010 (CAB).

MARTIAL EAGLE *Polemaetus bellicosus*

An old record was submitted from July 1996 and Dec 1998 from Matombi Camp on the Shashe/Limpopo confluence (CD). Records from 2009 and early 2010:

No. Birds	Date	Location	Obs.
1	11 April 2009	Lion Park south of Gaborone	HH

No. Birds	Date	Location	Obs.
1	11 April	Chobe N.P.	CV, DJ
1 adult	13 Aug	Bodumatau Lagoon, Moremi G.R.	SJT
1 adult	16 Aug	Khwebe Hills	CAB
1 immature	29 Aug	Moreswe Pan, Khutse G.R.	CAB
1	19 Sept	Khutse G.R.	CV
1	28 Nov	Khutse G.R.	CV
1 adult	3 Jan 2010	Kopong Hills, SE Botswana	CAB
1	12 Jan	South Gate	HH
1 sub-adult	14 Feb	Mogonye	CAB
1	20, 21 Mar	Chobe N.P.	HH
1	3 Apr	Mashatu in Tuli Block	Tickbird

AYRES HAWK EAGLE

One was at Vumbura in Oct 2008 in 1822D4 (18° 58' 32''S, 22° 52' 41''E) (BR).

RED-FOOTED FALCON *Falco vespertinus*

Singles were seen at Crocodile Pools, Notwane on 18 Feb 2009 and near Takatswaane on 28 Dec (CAB).

AMUR FALCON *Falco amurensis*

In Jan 2009 at Palapye 2,500 falcons probably of this species and/or possibly **RED-FOOTED FALCONS** were counted at a communal roost, whilst in April numbers were down to 1,200 (MB). Adult male at Crocodile Pools, Notwane on 6 Jan and two near Boatle on 21 Feb 2010; two in Chobe N.P. on date (HH *et al.*).

LESSER KESTREL *Falco naumanni*

Fifty were reported at Coombe Farm on 7 Mar 2009 (MMG); 16 were seen flying northwards at Marakalalo Ranch on 21 Mar 2009 (CAB). Five flew south at sunrise on 5 Nov 2009 at Crocodile Pools, Notwane (CAB). Also seen in Khutse G.R. on 28 Nov 2009 (CV). One on western side of Sowa Pan on 6 Dec, five on the Chobe floodplain near Kasane in December, two near Sehitwa on 29 Dec and one near Boatle on 14 and 21 Feb 2010 (CAB, RP). In Chobe N.P. 15 were seen on 16 Mar, 60 on 17 Mar (Bernd) and 30+ on 18 Mar (HH *et al.*).

EURASIAN HOBBY *Falco subbuteo*

One was seen in early Dec. along vet fence north of Sowa on 5 Dec and immature at Kubu Island on 7 Dec (CAB).

BLACK-NECKED GREBE *Podiceps nigricollis*

The only records received for 2009 were of three at Kgoro Pan on 15 Feb 2009 (CAB) and singles at Lobatse S.P. on 26 July (SJT), at Otse Dam on 4 July (WDB)

& TMM), at Nata River near Nata Delta on 7 Sept (PN) and on a small pan near Ghanzi on 26 Nov (KG). In 2010 there was one at Maun S.P. on 19 Mar (RDR) and 38 at Sojwe Pan on 8 May (CAB).

SLATY EGRET *Egretta vinaceigula*

No.	Date	Location	Obs.
1	10 Jan	Okavango River, Phillipa junction to Sepopa swamp stop	PH
6	17 Jan	Gcobega Lediba	PH
1	19 May	Moremi G.R.	CV
2	9 Aug	Moremi G. R.	AF
2	23 Aug	Moremi G. R.	AF
1	6 Aug	Xini floodplain in Moremi G.R. S19 22.638' E23 30.373'	SJT
1	6 Aug	Xini floodplain S19 23.285 E23 30.541	
1	7 Aug	Meya Pan in Moremi G.R. S19 13.709' E23 23.632'	SJT
1	8 Aug	Dobetsaa Pans, Moremi G.R. S19 15.599' E23 23.888'	SJT
1	9 Aug	Bodumatau Lagoon, Moremi G.R. S19 18.175' E23 26.933'	SJT
1	11 Aug	Khwai River floodplain S19 10.010' E23 47.034'	SJT
1	11 Aug	Khwai River floodplain S19 09.252' E23 47.948'	SJT
1	12 Aug	Near Khwai River Lodge S19 08.847' E23 47.913'	SJT
1	12 Aug	Khwai between North gate and Dombo pool S19 11.439' E23 41.313'	SJT
2	12 Aug	Khwai between North gate and Dombo pool S19 11.543' E23 41.051'	SJT
1	12 Aug	Khwai between North gate and Dombo pool S19 11.675' E23 40.019'	SJT
1	13 Aug	Drying pan west of Dombo pool, Moremi G.R. S19 12.281' E23 37.606'	SJT
1	13 Sept	Xini loop, Moremi G.R. S19° 23' E23° 31'	PN
3	13 Sept	Xini loop, Moremi G.R. S19° 23' E23° 30'	PN
1	14 Sept	Khwai area, Moremi G.R. S19° 09' E23° 46'	PN
1	15 Sept	Xakanaxa, Moremi G.R. S19° 12' E23° 24'	PN
3	16 Mar	Chobe River in N.P. (one seen on 21 st)	HH <i>et al.</i>

BLACK HERON *Egretta ardesiaca*

Three were at Bokaa Dam on 15 Jan 2009, 30 on 10 Jan 2010, one there on 20 Mar and 3 April. One was at Thagale Dam on 23 Jan 2010 (CAB, KM).

YELLOW-BILLED EGRET *Egretta intermedia*

One was at Thagale Dam on 24 Jan, one at Kgoro Pan on 15 Feb, one at Mabule Dam on 20 Jun 2009, one at Bokaa Dam on 10 Jan 2010 and three at Sojwe Pan on 8 May (CAB).

WHITE-BACKED NIGHT-HERON *Gorsachius leuconotus*

Away from the Okavango River, one was seen at Kasane on 28 Nov (PL).

LESSER FLAMINGO *Phoenicopterus minor*

During waterbird counts in July 2009 three were seen at Ramotswa S.P. on 1st, three at Phakalane S.P. on 5th (JD) and one at Tsholofelo S.P. on 27th (SJT). There were ca. 65,000 along eastern edge of Sowa Pan, north of Sowa, on 5 Dec. In addition, ca. 10,000 at Nata; it was estimated that in excess of 100,000 were present in the north of Sowa Pan on 5 Dec (CAB). Singles at Bokaa Dam on 20 Mar 2010, at Tshwaane Pan on 3 April and at Tswaaiing Pans on 18 April (CAB).

BLACK STORK *Ciconia nigra*

In 2009 one was seen at Coombe Farm on the Limpopo, 40km south of Martin's Drift on 7 March (MGG) and one at Mashatu in the Tuli Block on 12 March (Orfords). Two were seen in Mokolodi N.R. on 6 Dec (BM) and one along Notwane River near Ramotswa on 24 Dec (CAB, DMc, MGG, CV *et al.*).

WOOLLY-NECKED STORK *Ciconia episcopus*

Two on Chobe floodplain near Kasane, Dec 2009 (Remo Probst) and more than 300 on 9-10 Jan 2010, Moremi G.R., especially on the ephemeral pans just to the NW of the Bodumatau loop road (MM, AF).

SADDLE-BILLED STORK *Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis*

Singles were at Matombi Camp in the Tuli Block in July 1996 and Dec 1998 (CD). One was seen in late 2008 in Gaborone G.R. (IW). One was at the Tlwane River crossing between Mokolodi 1 and 2 in late Oct/early Nov 2009 (GB & SB) and one at Shashe/Limpopo confluence on 2 Dec and one at Mmatshumo on 7 Dec (CAB). As Savuti Marsh was flooding in May 2010, 14 were seen by the floodwater (JB).

BOKMAKERIE *Telophorus zeylonus*

One was at Pitsane on 5 Sept 2009 (CAB, MpP).

PEARL-BREASTED SWALLOW *Hirundo dimidiata*

Records included two at Phakalane S.P. on 25 July 2009 and four at Tsholofelo S.P. on 27 July (SJT) and two, north of Kuke in 2022C4, on 18 Aug 2009 (CAB). One was seen at Thagale Dam on 2 May (BLB).

SOUTH AFRICAN CLIFF SWALLOW *Hirundo spilodera*

Five were at Mogobane Dam on 2 Aug 2009 (BLB). Present at breeding colony at Hildavale on 15 Jan 2009 and 31 Jan 2010; one at Mogobane Dam 25 Apr.

BROWN-THROATED MARTIN *Riparia paludicola*

One was seen between Mabule and Leporong, along the Molopo, near Tshdilamolomo (2524D1), on 20 June 2009 and one at Ramotswa S.P. on 1 July, three at Bokaa Dam on 26 July 2009 (CAB), ca. 40 at Mogobane on 2 Aug 2009 (BLB), one at Bokaa Dam on 6 Sept 2009 and four there on 11 April 2010 and four at Mogobane Dam on 18 April 2010 and two on 25 Apr (CAB). Three were seen at Thagale Dam on 2 May (BLB) and five at Sojwe Pan on 8 May (CAB).

RIVER WARBLER *Locustella fluviatillis*

One was at Crocodile Pools, Notwane, 12 - 20 Mar 2010 (CAB).

OLIVE-TREE WARBLER *Hippolais olivetorum*

Two were near Ramotswa on 4 Jan 2009, one at Kubu Island on 7 Dec 2009, one at Sojwe on 8 Dec, two at Bokaa Dam on 10 Jan 2010 and one or two near Ramotswa in Jan-Feb 2010 (CAB).

GARDEN WARBLER *Sylvia borin*

Two were singing in thick cover in the Kopong Hills on 3 Jan 2010 and one was seen at Crocodile Pools, Notwane on 10 Jan (CAB).

THRUSH NIGHTINGALE *Luscinia luscinia*

At least nine were along Thamalakane River, Maun in Jan 2010 (MM, AF).

BUSHVELD PIPIT *Anthus caffer*

Seven were noted at Lokgokgotho Hills on 21 July 2009 (CAB).

VILLAGE WEAVER *Ploceus cucullatus*

There was an active colony of ca. 200 nests along Limpopo River at Marakalalo Ranch on 21 Mar 2009 (CAB). Ca. 10 (males in 90% breeding plumage) seen and photographed at a bird feeder at Notwane in August 2009 (IW).

ORANGE-BREASTED WAXBILL *Amandava subflava*

Ca. 10 at Mogobane Dam on 4 Aug 2009; one there on 18 April 2010 (CAB, IW).

STREAKY-HEADED SEED-EATER *Serinus mennelli*

At Mowana mine (MScz) and one at Lokgokgotho Hills on 21 July 2009 (CAB).

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INTERESTING AND UNUSUAL SIGHTINGS

Compiled by

Stephanie J. Tyler and Chris A. Brewster

This section does not cover rarities but rather interesting observations of more common birds. It might report on a species seen out of its usual range or on notably large numbers of a species. Observations on breeding or feeding behaviour are also welcomed. Records are mainly from January to December 2009 and January to May 2010.

SOUTH AFRICAN SHELDUCK *Tadorna cana*

A pair overwintered at Malema Pan in Khama Rhino Sanctuary, outside its usual southeastern stronghold (IW). July counts totalled 96 birds at 11 sites in SE Botswana. At Bokaa Dam there were 84 on 18 Oct and 23 on 10 Jan (CAB). The January counts totalled 174 birds with a large count of 80 from Jwaneng S.P. on 19 Jan (MGG, DG, HH). Other significant counts were 28 at Moshupa Dam and 22 at Ramotswa S.P. (MGG, DG, CAB). On 3 Apr six were noted at Takatokwane Pan and 19 at Tshwaane Pan (2323D3), two at Kang on 4 Apr and 48 on 18 April there were 48 at Tswaiing Pans in 2524B2 (CAB).

CAPE TEAL *Anas capensis*

Seen at a pool in a pan north of Ghanzi on 4 Oct (KG) and eight at Tshwaane Pan on 4 April 2010 (CAB)

RED-BILLED TEAL *Anas erythrorhyncha*

Seen at a pan north of Ghanzi on 19 Oct (KG) and 3,500 on eastern side of Sowa Pan, north of Sowa, on 5 Dec 2009; 38, including five ducklings, at Takatokwaane Pan and 48 at Tshwaane Pan on 3 April 2010 (CAB).

SOUTHERN POCHARD *Netta erythrophalama*

Only 216 were counted at 10 sites in SE Botswana in the July 2009 AfWC counts whereas 450 were at Bokaa Dam on 18 Oct.

In Jan 2010 1,931 were counted at sites in SE Botswana with 620 at Bokaa Dam on 10th and 260 at Thagale Dam on 23rd (CAB). Six were at Tshwaane Pan on 4 April.

GIANT KINGFISHER *Megaceryle maxima*

Records of this unmistakable species are few. In 2009 in the south-east at least one bird, a female, regularly fed at a garden pond at Notwane in July and August

(GH, HH). One was also seen at Mokolodi N.R. on 6 Dec (BMc, DMc, MGG, CV *et al.*). On the Limpopo River at Darnaway Farm one was seen on 3 Oct (BLB).

Other records come from the northern wetlands. At Kasane three were seen on the Chobe River on 14 Feb and one on the Kazungula border pans on 8 Feb (MB) and then at Commissioner's Kop at Kasane with singles there on 7 and 30 July and 7 and 28 Nov (PL). Along the Okavango River from the Nambian border down to Pepere Island and including the Ngarange and Phillip channels, 19 were counted from 18-20 July c.f. 289 Pied and 81 Malachite Kingfishers (PH *et al.*) and one was seen on the Linyanti on 18 July (GH, BG). One was noted at Nxamaseri on 12 Aug and one at Xigera on 24 Aug (SW). None were observed elsewhere in the Okavango system in the winter.

In the Jan 2010 counts singles were seen on the Okavango River upstream of Mohembo and between the Philipo 3 confluence and Sepupa and on the Chobe River (PH, PL *et al.*).

AFRICAN SCOPS-OWL *Otus senegalensis*

Two were calling near D'Kar on 18 Aug 2009 (CAB).

SOUTHERN WHITE-FACED SCOPS-OWL *Ptilopus granti*

Heard calling at Crocodile Pools, Notwane in July 2009 and in Jan and Feb 2010 (CAB).

AFRICAN MOURNING DOVE *Streptopelia deceptiens*

Frequent at Lake Ngami on 29 Dec (CAB).

GREAT CRESTED GREBE *Podiceps cristatus*

In southeast Botswana seven were seen at Leporong dam on the Molopo River on 21 June (CAB) and 126 at other sites during July: two at Thagale Dam on 12th (CAB), seven at Gamoleele Dam, 10 at Mogobane Dam and 15 at Moshupa Dam on 20th (HH, DG, MGG), 20 (including a pair with three young, a pair with two young and a pair with one young) and 90 at Bokaa Dam on 26th – including three pairs each with two small young ca. 5-10 days (CAB) and two at Gaborone Dam on 28th (SJT). Five were seen on Bokaa Dam on 18 Oct (CAB).

LITTLE STINT *Calidris minuta*

There were ca. 150 at Tshwaane Pan on 3 April (CAB).

RUFF *Philomachus pugnax*

Ca. 110 were seen at Tshwaane Pan on 3 April (CAB).

GREATER PAINTED-SNIPE *Rostratula benghalensis*

Widespread records: two at Bokaa Dam on 26 July (CAB), six on a pan in NW of Rysana Pan on 30 July, several in the Boro floodplain near Maun in July (GS), one on the Boteti upriver of Samedupi on 3 Aug, in Moremi G.R. two in the Xini Lediba floodplain on 6 Aug, one in the Bodumatau floodplain near Fourth Bridge on 7 Aug, and one at Dombo pool near North Gate on 12 Aug (SJT). Two were seen on the eastern side of Sowa Pan, north of Sowa, on 5 Dec (CAB).

AFRICAN JACANA *Actophilornis africanus*

One was seen along the Molopo River near Tshdilamolomo (2524D1) on 21 June 2009 and one at Sojwe Pan on 8 Dec (CAB). One was at Tau Pan in the CKGR on 27 Jan 2010 (per TH).

BLACK-WINGED STILT *Himantopus himantopus*

An estimated 2,000-3,000 were at the leading edge of Lake Ngami in Aug 2009 (MM, AF, CAB & SJT).

PIED AVOCET *Recurvirostra avosetta*

Some 650 were seen on the eastern side of Sowa Pan, north of Sowa, on 5 Dec 2009 and 25 at Tshwaane Pan on 3 April 2010 (CAB).

CASPIAN PLOVER *Charadrius asiaticus*

An early record was of one on 17 Aug 2009 at Lake Ngami; 15 were seen in the Gwana area (2122C1) on 30 Dec (CAB).

COMMON RINGED PLOVER *Charadrius hiaticula*

There were 36 at Bokaa Dam on 18 Oct 2009, 38 on 10 Jan 2010 and 73 on 20 March (CAB). One was seen at Thagale Dam on 2 May, presumably an overwintering bird (BLB) and one at Shadishadi Pan on 8 May (CAB).

KITTLITZ'S PLOVER *Charadrius pecuarius*

About 100 were at Tshwaane Pan, including an adult incubating a nest with two eggs, on 3 April 2010 (CAB).

BRONZE-WINGED COURSER *Rhinoptilus chalcopterus*

One was at Gaborone G.R. on 6 Apr 2010 (STh)

GREY-HEADED GULL *Larus cirrocephalus*

One was at Gaborone Dam on 3 Feb 2010 (IW) and ca. 40 at Sowa Pan Mine on 4 Dec (CAB).

WHISKERED TERN *Chlidonias hybrida*

An estimated 4,000 were seen at Lake Ngami in late Dec 2009 (CAB).

WHITE-WINGED TERN *Chlidonias leucopterus*

Some 5,000 were on the eastern side of Sowa Pan, north of Sowa, on 5 Dec (CAB)

WHITE-BACKED VULTURE *Gyps africanus*

No.	Date	Location	Obs.
1	30 July 2009	On nest in Knobthorn <i>Acacia nigrescens</i> between Orapa and Mopipi S21° 22.321' E25° 19.182'	SJT
5	12 Aug	Active nests, each with one young, along Boteti River at Khumaga	CAB
1	18 Aug	One young on nest in 2122B2 in northwest corner of CKGR	CAB
Ca.40	29 Aug	Khutse 1 Pan, Khutse G.R.	CAB
Ca.40	5 Dec	East of Sowa Town	CAB
Ca. 50	6 Dec	West of Nata	CAB
Ca. 70	21 Dec	At donkey carcass near Matebele, north of Gaborone	CAB
120	31 Dec	At carcass of cow at Takatswaane	CAB
7	30 Jan 2010	Khama Rhino Sanctuary	MGG

WESTERN BANDED SNAKE-EAGLE *Circaetus cinerascens*

A pair was seen three times at a camp between Gunutsugha and Seronga in April and May 2009 (GMcC). Two were in Chobe N.P. between 14 and 21 Mar (HH).

MONTAGU'S HARRIER *Circus pygargus*

At Maokane (2424D3) on 22 Nov 2009 a sub-adult male flew alongside the vehicle for a kilometre. One was in 2326A2 (east of Lephephe) in sandveld (CAB).

PURPLE HERON *Ardea purpurea*

One was seen on 5 July 2009 and two on 27 July at Phakalane S.P. and Notwane Dam respectively (JD, SJT).

DWARF BITTERN *Ixobrychus sturmii*

Singles were seen at Kumakwane on 6 Dec 2009 and at Gaborone G.R. on 2 Jan 2010 (IW). Six were seen around Shashe Dam on 23 Jan (PD'A, NB *et al.*) and one at Tau Pan, CKGR on 27 Jan (per TH). A nest was found at a pan near Maun on 6 March (MM & RDR).

GREATER FLAMINGO *Phoenicopterus roseus (ruber)*

At the start of the year (2009) 85 were seen at Lake Ngami on 20 Jan, 32 on 5 Feb and 127 on 14 Feb (RDR). In the southeast the only records in early 2009 were of five at Bokaa Dam on 18 Jan and one at Kgoro Pan on 15 Feb (CAB).

Few records in July other than four at Phakalane S.P. on 5th (JD), three at Ramotswa S.P. and one at Thagale Dam on 12th and 52 at Bokaa Dam on 26th (CAB) and a single at Rysana Pan on 31st (SJT) with 300 at Nata Delta on 10 Aug (CAB). On 18 Oct there were 80 at Bokaa Dam (CAB).

On 10 Jan 2010 a count of 165 was made at Bokaa Dam and on 23 Jan of two at Thagale Dam (CAB). There were 34 at Shashe Dam on 23 Jan (PD'A, NB).

GREAT WHITE PELICAN *Pelecanus onocrotalus*

On 20 Jan 2009 about 1,100 were counted at Lake Ngami and 460 at the lake on 5 Feb (RDR). In late Dec 2009 about 1,500 were at the lake (CAB).

A total of 56 birds, including brown immatures, were counted along the Boteti River between Makalamabedi and Samedupi in late July (SJT). Some 42 were at Shashe dam on 26 July (PD'A, NB et al.) and 43 at Nata Delta on 10 Aug (CAB).

On 23 Jan 2010 there were 55 at Shashe Dam (PD'A, NB et al.).

PINK-BACKED PELICAN *Pelecanus rufescens*

A single bird was seen along the Okavango River between Mohembo and Shakawe on 18 July (PH et al.). Elsewhere 45 were noted on 17 July along the Savuti Channel between Mantswe Pan and Zibadianja (GH, BG). Some 40 nests with chicks were reported at the Kanana heronry on 21 Oct (RDR).

Small numbers were present at Lake Ngami in late Dec (CAB). One was at Bokaa Dam on 10 Jan 2010 (CAB). Some 13 were at Shashe Dam on 23 Jan (PD'A, NB).

WHITE STORK *Ciconia ciconia*

2009 records: Two were noted at Coombe Farm on the Limpopo on 7 Mar (MGG). A single bird, probably from the South African breeding population, spent the winter months at Malema Pan in Khama Rhino Sanctuary (IW). Two were at Mokubilo Pan on 30 July (SJT) and one was at Lake Ngami on 17 Aug (CAB). From 8-16 Dec one was seen at Matlheng Pan (ME).

2010 records: Three were at Sojwe Pan on 29 Jan (HH), small numbers in Moremi G.R. on 2 Jan (AF, MM), ca. 100 over Metsemotlhaba River on 7 Mar 2010 (CAB) and one at Maun S.P. on 19 Mar (RDR).

YELLOW-BILLED STORK *Mycteria ibis*

During the winter waterbird counts a total of 12 birds were seen in SE Botswana, seven of these being at Phakalane S.P. on 5 July (JD, ID), two at Thagale Dam on 12 July (CAB) and singles at three other sites. In the summer 2009/2010 18 were at Bokaa Dam on 18 Oct and 29 on 10 Jan, and 18 at Thagale Dam on 23 Jan (CAB).

AFRICAN OPENBILL *Anastomus lamelligerus*

One was seen at Masetlheng Pan, north of the KTP from 9 to 16 Dec 2009 (ME), one at Thagale Dam on 23 Jan and one at Bokaa Dam on 13 March (CAB). Five were seen on 2 May at Thagale Dam (BLB). These records are most unusual but there was a major influx of these storks into South Africa, well outside their usual range, from December to January with some birds remaining into May.

EURASIAN GOLDEN ORIOLE *Oriolus oriolus*

One male was seen at Takatswaane (2221D2) on 28 Dec (CAB).

WHITE-CRESTED HELMET-SHRIKE *Prionops plumatus*

Flock of 20, including dependent juveniles, were seen at Gwana, well outside of expected range, on 5 April 2010 (CAB).

LESSER STRIPED SWALLOW *Hirundo abyssinica*

One was at old Khutse Game Scout Camp on 27 Aug 2009 (CAB).

COMMON HOUSE-MARTIN *Delichon urbicon*

Winter record: One at Otse Dam on 15 July 2009. There were ca. 150 at Mogobane Dam on 18 April 2010 (CAB).

COMMON WHITETHROAT *Sylvia communis*

Very common in bush savanna at Marakalalo Ranch on 21 March 2009 (CAB).

RUFOUS-EARED WARBLER *Malcorus pectoralis*

Common at Maokane (2424D3) on 22 Nov 2009 (CAB); see note one page 34 on birds seen in Passarge Valley/Sunday Pan/Leopard Pan in the CKGR (RDR).

EASTERN CLAPPER LARK *Mirafra (apiata) fasciolata*

Common at Maokane (2424D3) on 22 Nov 2009 (CAB); displaying birds in 2326A2 (east of Lephephe) in sandveld (CAB) in early December.

SHORT-CLAWED LARK *Certhilauda chuana*

One was seen north of Bothlapatlou in 2325D3 on 20 July 2009 (CAB).

PALE FLYCATCHER *Bradornis pallidus*

A pair was at Lokgokgotho Hills on 20 July 2009 (CAB).

FISCAL FLYCATCHER *Sigelus silens*

Singles north of Bothlapatlou, in 2325D3 and 2325C3 on 20 July 2009 (CAB).

COMMON MYNAH *Acridotheres tristis*

Botswana Tickbird records for this species shows just how common and widespread Mynahs are in southern Botswana. Over the last four years they were noted at Mokolodi N.R., Notwane, Moshupa Dam, Mannyelanong Hill, in the Gabane and Mogagabe Hills and in Gaborone city. The highest count was of 52 at Phakalane Golf Course on 29 Nov 2009. Further afield birds were seen at Bathoen Dam near Kanye, at Jwana Game Park, at Jwaneng Sewage Ponds and at Mabule on the Molopo River. Of concern too was the sighting by Cheryl Vroom of birds in Khutse Game Reserve on 28 Nov 2009. (There is a pair at the entrance gate, but not in the game reserve; the complex of buildings at the entrance gate is presumably the attraction for this pair). A pair was along Trans Kgalagadi Highway near Takatsaane on 31 Dec and at Kang on 7 April 2010 (CAB).

PLAINBACKED PIPIT *Anthus leucophrys*

Three at Pitsane on 15 Feb 2009, a pair near Mogobane on 22 July, two near Ramotswa on 24 Dec, one at Gwana on 31 Dec and three at Kgoro Pan on 18 April 2010 (CAB).

BUFFY PIPIT *Anthus vaalensis*

Two were seen near Ramotswa on 4 Jan 2009 and ca. four pairs between Mabule and Leporing on 21 Jun 2009. About five very dark birds (pale below) were seen on the open plains south of Maokane (2424D3) on 22 Nov. One (probably *chobiensis*) was on the western side of Sua Pan on 6 Dec, one at Kubu Island on 7 Dec and one (*chobiensis*) was near Lake Ngami in late Dec (CAB). One was seen at Ncaang on 6 April 2010 (CAB).

AFRICAN PIED WAGTAIL *Motacilla aguimp*

Two were seen at Bokaa Dam on 20 March 2010 (CAB); this species is not common in SE Botswana, although is frequent further north at Shashe Dam and in parts of the Okavango Delta and along the Chobe River at Kasane.

Stephanie J. Tyler & Chris A. Brewster, c/o BirdLife Botswana

Early and Late Dates for Migrants 2009/2010 summer

Palearctic

European Bee-eater *Merops apiaster* Three flocks flew north at Crocodile Pools, Notwane on 10 Apr.

Steppe Buzzard *Buteo vulpinus* One at Crocodile Pools, Notwane on 3 Apr.

Lesser Grey Shrike *Lanius minor* One at Crocodile Pools, Notwane on 15 Apr.

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica* One late bird at Crocodile Pools 25 Apr.

House Martin *Delichon urbica* ca.80 birds were at Mogobane Dam on 25 Apr.

Icterine Warbler *Hippolais icterina* One was seen south of Nxogodimo in 2220D2 on 6 Apr.

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus* Two at Gwana on 5 Apr.

Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata* One south of Nxogodimo in 2220D2 on 6 Apr.

African

Red-chested Cuckoo *Cuculus solitarius* One calling at Crocodile Pools, Notwane on 18 March 2009. Dependent juvenile along Metsemotlhaba River on 3 March 2010; probable host was White-browed Scrub-Robin *Cercotrichas leucophrys*, though this was not confirmed.

African Cuckoo *Cuculus gularis* was calling at Notwane on morning of 28 Sept 2009 after a thunderstorm and again on 29th.

Klaas's Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx cupreus* was calling at Notwane on evening of 29 Sept. (CAB's first Sept record at Notwane).

Black Cuckooshrike *Campephaga flava* Two at Crocodile Pools, Notwane on 17 May 2009. Next record there, of a newly arrived migrant, was one on 25 Sept.

Violet-backed (Plum-coloured) Starling *Cinnyricinclus leucogaster* Nine at Mogonye on 16 May 2010, a late date.

Chris A. Brewster

CONTRIBUTORS OF RECORDS

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DB	Doline Bridges	KM	Keddy Mooketsa
FB	Felicity Burge	MM	Mark Muller
HB	Helen Barbera	IN-S	Ian Nuttall-Smith
JB	Johan Bruwer	KO	Ken Oake
MB	Mark Bing	PN	Pat Nurse
MBu	Michelle Burt	MpP	Mpho Phiri
WDB	Wendy Borello	RP	Remo Probst
NB	Nicky Bousfield	BR	Brian Rode
GB	Grant Buckmaster	BrR	Brent Reed
SB	Siobhan Buckmaster	RDR	Richard Randall
CD	Clive Dickson	ES	Eugenie Skelton
DD	Dian Derksen	GS	Glen Stephens
KD	Kabo Ditshane	GS	Graeme Skinner
PD'A	Peter D'Arcy	MS	M. Samati
SD	Shavaughn Davis	HSw	H. Swart
ME	Maria Eifler	MSw	M. Swart
AF	Albert Froneman	SS	Susan Stroud
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Some Breeding Records in late 2009 and 2010

Species	Location	Date	Nest site	Obs.
White-faced Duck	Thagale Dam	23 Jan 2010	Pair adults with 9 tiny ducklings, 5 days old	CAB
Egyptian goose	Bokaa Dam	10 Jan 2010	Pair adults with 8 ducklings, ca.5 days old	CAB
Red-billed Teal	Takatokwane Pan	3 Feb 2010	Adult with 5 ducklings ca.3 weeks old	CAB
Crested Barbet	Maun	Early Jan 2010	One pair on eggs in artificial nest box on tree in garden	MM, AF
Grey Hornbill	Maun	Early Jan 2010	Feeding young in hole intree in garden by Thamalakane River (see page xx)	MM, AF
Woodland Kingfisher	Maun	Early Jan 2010	Two nests with chicks in garden	MM, AF
Jacobin Cuckoo	Crocodile Pools, Notwane	27 Feb 2010	Immature being fed by Red-eyed Bulbul (imm. had been present for at least a week previously)	CAB
Red-eyed Dove	Maun	Early Jan 2010	Four pairs on nests ,with eggs or with small chicks	MM, AF
Greater Painted-Snipe	Near Maun	6/7 March 2010	Nest with 2 eggs	MM, RDR
Kittlitz's Plover	Tshwaane Pan	3 Apr 2010	Adult incubating 2 eggs in scrape at edge of pan	CAB
Chestnut-banded Plover	Nata Sanctuary	3 Apr 2010	Adult incubating 2 eggs in scrape on gravel pan	SS
Double-banded Courser	Masatlheng Pan	Dec 2009	Nest with one egg	ME
Bateleur	Gwana (2221C1)	30 Dec 2009	a platform of sticks 5.5m up in an 8m high <i>Combretum collinum</i> in broad-leaved woodland; male was on nest and female beside it	CAB
African Hawk Eagle	Gaborone Dam	3 Feb 2010	Pair plus immature	IW
Secretarybird	Near Maokane	22 Nov2009	Fully grown immature on nest ca.3.5m above ground on crown of <i>Acacia tortilis</i>	CAB
Little Grebe	Takatokwane Pan	3 April 2010	Adult with one young ca.2-3 weeks old	CAB
Dwarf Bittern	Near Maun	6/7 Mar' 10	Nest with one egg	MM
African	Maun	Early Jan	Adults feeding three half-	MM,

Paradise-Flycatcher		2010	grown chicks	AF
Brubru	Crocodile Pools, Notwane	27 Feb 2010	Two immature begging from adult	CAB
Orange-breasted Bush-shrike	Potsane River (2425D3)	14 Feb 2010	Immature begging from adult	CAB
Grey-headed Bush-shrike	Gaborone	Mid Sept 2009	Nest-building in a tree 3m high. Chicks hatched in early Nov and both parents were feeding chicks on 14 Nov.	SB
African Red-eyed Bulbul	Maun	Early Jan 2010	Feeding chicks in nest in Paper-bark Acacia	MM, AF
Fork-tailed Drongo	Crocodile Pools, Notwane	7 Nov 2009	Adult on nest; small cup on fork of branch; unsuccessful, probably due to cold, wet conditions of 18-20 Nov 2009	CAB
White-browed Scrub-Robin	Crocodile Pools, Notwane	29 Nov 2009	Recently fledged young with adult	CAB
White-browed Robin-Chat	Maun	Early Jan 2010	Feeding chicks in nest at base of tree among creepers	MM, AF
White-bellied Sunbird	Crocodile Pools, Nowane	30 Jan 2010	Immature begging from adult female	CAB
Cinnamon-breasted Bunting	Tswaing Pans	18 Apr 2010	a grassy cup in the shade of a rock (south side) with 2 eggs, female incubating.	CAB

Observers: CAB Chris Brewster; SB Siobhan Buckmaster; ME Maria Eifler, AF Ali Flatt, MM Mark Muller, RDR Richard Randall, SS Susan Stroud

Compiled by Stephanie J. Tyler and Chris Brewster

PUBLICATIONS OF RELEVANCE TO BOTSWANA'S BIRDS

Many fascinating articles about birds are written each year in southern Africa. Amongst the best of the journals is *Honeyguide*, produced in Zimbabwe by BirdLife Zimbabwe. A number of papers that are of particular relevance to Botswana or which also cover Botswana are either summarised below or will appear in a future issue of *Babbler*.

Oatley, T.B., Boix Hinzen, C. & Boorman, M. 2005. Origin of the ovambo race of the White-browed Scrub-Robin. *Honeyguide* 51(1): 44-46.

The White-browed Scrub-Robin *Erythropygia leucophrys* is the most widespread species of the genus in Africa. Some 24 races have been described but many are synonyms and in *Birds of Africa* only seven races were recognised. The race that occurs in northern Botswana is *ovamboensis* which is found too in southern Angola, northern Namibia, southwest Zambia and western Zimbabwe. It is very different from the species further south in Botswana as has much reduced streaking on the breast and has a cinnamon wash over the underparts. The unwary could confuse this race with Eastern Bearded Scrub-Robin *Cercotrichas quadrivirgata*. Indeed the authors note that all records of the latter species in the Okavango are mis-identifications and are actually of the *ovamboensis* race of the White-browed Scrub-Robin, contrary to the map in Huw Penry's Atlas of Birds in Botswana. Eastern Bearded Scrub-Robin occurs in Botswana only along the Chobe River, this being the most westerly part of its range.

After two of the authors caught White-browed Scrub-Robins in the Caprivi Strip, the senior author realised that the birds with their extensive white on the wing coverts (a feature that Richard Randall had noted at Kasane 20 years ago), grey head and other features were very similar to birds from northeast Tanzania and the authors suggest that these scrub-robins are descendants of birds that expanded southwest from a Somalia arid zone via a dry corridor down to southern Africa.

Oschadleus, H.D. 2005. Colonial Southern Masked Weavers. *Honeyguide* 51(2): 30.

Dieter Oschadleus reported that a breeding colony of Southern Masked Weavers *Ploceus velatus* usually consists of one male with several females although larger colonies with up to four males may occur. He noted that earlier reports of large colonies of several hundred pairs are erroneous and probably referred to colonies of Lesser Masked Weaver *P. intermedius* or Village (Spotted-backed) Weavers *P. cucullatus*.

Tree, A.J. 2003. Movements of the Treble-banded Plover within and through Zimbabwe, with observations from elsewhere in southern Africa. *Honeyguide* 49(1): 50-61.

Tony Tree describes a complex picture of the movements of this familiar small plover *Charadrius tricollaris*. Most birds are either nomadic or genuine short-medium distance migrants, making movements presumably from higher rainfall to lower rainfall areas. Distance moved is usually less than 30 km but one bird moved 88 km. Only a small proportion of plovers return to the same locality to breed in later years.

Tony's ringing studies were intensive in Mashonaland from March 1972 to February 1983 and less intensive from 1986 to 1992 in Mashonaland and also in the North Midlands and Zambezi Valley. He has shown that although birds may be recorded at a site through the year, few remain for long in any one area; there is a constant turn-over through the year.

Tree, A. J. 2002. The status of the Brown-throated Martin in Zimbabwe and neighbouring countries. *Honeyguide* 48(1): 69-77.

This martin is widespread in Africa, India and South Asia but has a patchy distribution in Africa, occurring most widely in South Africa. It is scarce in Namibia except in the Caprivi whilst in Botswana it is found mainly in the southeast, east and north especially in the Okavango system. It is sparse in Mozambique and in Zimbabwe occurs mostly in the mid Zambezi, on the Mashonaland Highveld and along SE lowveld rivers.

Tony Tree suggested that there were two populations visiting Zimbabwe where a small resident population also occurs. There is a summer influx of birds on the highveld peaking in Dec/Jan and leaving by early April; these may be from Zambia, the Zambezi valley or Save and Limpopo Rivers. A small winter population of a more southerly origin replaces these birds from late April, leaving by early September. In Botswana an influx occurs from March, peaking in the winter months and breeding occurs during the winter.

Tony used biometrics from birds he caught – wing length, wing moult and belly colour – to back up his hypotheses.

I thank David Ewbank, Anthony Cizek and Keith Betton for letting me have these papers from *Honeyguide*.

Butchart, S.H.M., Walpole, M., Collen, B., van Strien, A., Scharlemann, J.P.W., Almond, R.E.A., Baillie, J.E.M., Bomhard, B., Brown, C., Bruno, J., Carpenter, K., Carr, G.M., Chanson, J., Chenery, A.M., Csirke, J., Davidson, N., Dentener, F., Foster, M., Galli, A., Galloway, J.N., Genovesi P., Gregory, R.D., Hockings, M., Kapos, V., Lamarque, J-F, Leverington, F., Loh, J., McGeoch, M.A., McRae, L., Minasyan, A., Hernández, Morcillo, M.H., Oldfield, T.E.E., Pauly, D., Quader, S., Revenga, C., Sauer, J.R., Skolnik, B., Spear, D., Stanwell-Smith, D., Stuart, S., Symes, A., Tierney, M., Tyrrell, T.D., Vié, J-C & Watson, R. 2010. Global biodiversity: indicators of recent declines. *Science* (29 April 2010).

This paper by Stu Butchart at the BirdLife Secretariat, in collaboration with 50 co-authors from more than 30 other institutions and agencies, synthesizes a set of 31 global indicators to show that biodiversity loss has continued unabated in recent decades, owing to increasing pressures and inadequate responses, and that the 2010 target of significantly reducing the rate of biodiversity loss has not been met.

GBO 3 sets out recommendations that will contribute to the global discussions of a new strategic plan and a new set of targets for combating biodiversity loss, to be adopted by the global community at the Tenth Conference of the Parties of the CBD, in Nagoya, Japan this October. The paper's results will also feed into BirdLife's forthcoming global report on how birds can help focus action to achieve and track biodiversity targets.

The paper prominently features BirdLife's biodiversity indicators. It illustrates the power and practicality of using birds to monitor biodiversity, and provides a good opportunity to showcase BirdLife's work and highlight its importance.

ScienceDaily (Apr. 26, 2010) *Using field experiments in Africa and a new computer model that gives them a bird's eye view of the world, Cambridge scientists Dr Claire Spttiswoode and Dr Martin Stevens have discovered how a bird decides whether or not a cuckoo has laid an egg in its nest. The finding offers unique insights into a 20 million-year-old evolutionary arms race.*

Only seven groups of birds in the world have evolved as brood parasites, laying their eggs in other birds' nests, and ecologists have long been fascinated by this behaviour as an example of evolution in action. Dr Spottiswoode and Dr Stevens worked on two tropical African species, the parasitic Cuckoo Finch or Parasitic Weaver *Anomalospiza imberbis* and one of its hosts, the Tawny-flanked Prinia

Prinia subflava. Until recently, most work on cuckoos has been done in temperate regions -- Europe and North America -- where species are relatively young in evolutionary terms. In the tropics, however, the Cuckoo Finch and Tawny-flanked Prinia could have been locked together in an evolutionary arms race for up to 20 million years.

As parasites have evolved ever better manipulation of their hosts, hosts have responded with ever more refined defences to evade parasitism. As a result, the Cuckoo Finch's mimicry of host eggs is extraordinary, as is the prinias' ability to spot the parasite's eggs. According to Dr Spottiswoode: "Prinias lay probably the most diverse range of eggs of any bird in the world, and this is likely to be an outcome of the long co-evolutionary battle with the Cuckoo Finch." "The eggs are analogous to a bank note, in terms of the variety and complexity of markings, perhaps to make them very hard to forge by the parasite." To find out exactly how prinias detect the foreign eggs, Spottiswoode and Stevens set up more than 100 rejection experiments in southern Zambia, putting one prinia egg into another's nest and waiting to see if the egg was rejected.

They also collected data to feed into a computer model to give them a bird's eye view of the world, using a spectrophotometer to measure egg colours and a digital camera to analyse the eggs' complex patterns. In the past, this kind of analysis was tackled by humans comparing eggs by eye, but human vision differs hugely from that of a bird. Birds can see ultraviolet light and because they have four types of cone in their eyes, compared with three in humans, they see a greater diversity of colour and pattern.

The two researchers found that prinias are amazingly good at rejecting foreign eggs, and that they use colour and several aspects of pattern to spot the parasite's eggs. Mysteriously, however, they do not seem to use the scribbles that uniquely occur only on the prinias' eggs. The specific traits used to distinguish foreign eggs were exactly those found to differ most between host eggs and real parasitic eggs. This suggests that natural selection is currently acting to make Cuckoo Finch eggs better mimics of their hosts and also that prinias use the most reliable information available in making rejection decisions. If the prinia fail to spot the parasite's eggs it pays a heavy price. The Cuckoo Finch chick hatches first, is bigger, and quickly outcompetes to the death its host foster sibling. Soon the nest contains just one or two giant Cuckoo Finches. They are twice the size of the Prinia's own chicks and take much effort to feed.

Stephanie J. Tyler



Recent good pictures from our Flickr website depicting “Birds of Botswana”
<http://www.flickr.com/groups/blb/pool>

1. Groundscarper Thrush
Photo: Ian White
2. Little Bee-eater
Photo: Ian White
3. Acacia Pied Barbet
Photo: Dian Derksen
4. Blacksmith Lapwing
Photo: Lyn Francey



BABBLER

Journal of BirdLife Botswana



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