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Tawny Eagle vs Martial Eagle

*Photo: Ian White*



## CONTENTS

<b>Editorial</b>	1
<b>Articles</b>	
<b>Some observations in the Tshootsha (Kalkfontein) area, March 2017</b> Chris A. Brewster	2
<b>Lake Ngami in February 2017</b> Ursula Franke	7
<b>Some sightings at Dovedale Farm</b> Adrian Haagner	8
<b>The current status of Orange-breasted Waxbills in Botswana</b> Stephanie J. Tyler	9
<b>Another Ross's Turaco in Botswana</b> Stephanie J. Tyler & Chris A. Brewster	13
<b>Bird-atlasing in south-eastern Botswana: some observations on     common bird species</b> Chris A. Brewster	15
<b>Highlights of the July 2016, January 2017 and July 2016     Waterbird Counts</b> Stephanie J. Tyler	24
<b>Botswana Bird List: Category A Rarities</b> Chris A. Brewster	33
<b>Botswana Bird List: Category B Rarities</b> Chris A. Brewster	36
<b>Reports from the Records Sub-committee</b>	
<b>Category A Records</b> Chris A. Brewster	40
<b>Summary of Category B records</b> Compiled by Chris A. Brewster & Stephanie J. Tyler	42
<b>Interesting and unusual sightings</b> Compiled by Stephanie J. Tyler & Chris A. Brewster	56
<b>Contributors</b>	65
<b>Some Breeding Records in 2017</b> Stephanie J. Tyler & Chris A. Brewster	66

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## Editorial

Many exciting discoveries are emerging from the use of satellite transmitters and other technology. One remarkable migratory movement that caught my eye was the fact that European Cuckoos tagged in China have been shown to migrate to Africa. Another was the tracking of Honey Buzzards from Europe into Africa and through Botswana into South Africa.

An International Slaty Egret Workshop was held in Maun, hosted by BirdLife Botswana back in 2010. Following on from the AEWA (Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds) workshop an *International Single Species Action Plan for the Conservation of the Slaty Egret* was written. Unfortunately since then very little action has taken place to address the priorities outlined in the plan, largely through a lack of resources for further research in Botswana. It is therefore good news that in Zambia, a team from the BirdLife partner Birdwatch Zambia is trying to prove that Slaty Egrets breed in the Barotse floodplain where large flocks are often seen with recently fledged juveniles.

There are a few notes in this issue of *Babbler* about important places or particular species but more accounts would be very welcome. Chris Brewster has produced an account of an interesting trip in March to Kalkfontein in western Botswana, in an arid area between Ghanzi and Charles Hill, whilst Ursula Franke writes on a few days spent at Lake Ngami in the rainy season during February. There are accounts of the apparent change in the status of Orange-breasted Waxbills in Botswana and the exciting discovery by Tshepo Phala of Ross's Turaco in the Linyanti in August, only the second substantiated sight record for Botswana as well as a report on atlassing fieldwork for the next southern African Atlas and the twice yearly waterbird counts carried out by some of you.

The main part of the issue contains a revised Category A and B list and 'A' and 'B' sightings, unusual records and breeding records sections. If your records are not included then perhaps you didn't submit them? Several observers are very diligent in their submissions but a lot more sightings must go unrecorded and so are lost to ornithology. Please let us have any records that you may have. They all add up to provide a picture of bird distribution and abundance and the seasonal use by birds of particular sites.

As I write this editorial I have learnt that water has crossed the road west of Mopipi so water may again reach Lake Xau. If it does, do go and see what is there.

*Stephanie Tyler* (Editor)

## Some observations in the Tshootsha (Kalkfontein) area, March 2017

Chris A Brewster

### Tshootsha village

At Tshootsha (Kalkfontein), between Ghanzi and Charles Hill, there is an extensive open area in the centre of the village overlooked by a busy filling station used by truck drivers. This area includes some depressions which appear to regularly hold water after rain in summer. One of the depressions, with steep rocky sides, has the appearance of a spring, or *motswedi*, and may hold water for much of the year. Immediately to the east of the village, beside the main road, is a stony pan, which holds water after heavy rainfall.

Tshootsha was visited in April 2015, after a period of heavy rains, and a variety of waterbirds was seen there, documented in Brewster (2015). Tshootsha was again visited on 19 March 2017, after a period of heavy rainfall in February 2017. On 19 March 2017 the grassy area in the centre of the village had a great deal more water than in April 2015 and there was an excellent variety of waterbirds. The rocky pan to the east of the village also had water but, unlike in April 2015, lacked any waterbirds, apart from a large aggregation of Marabou Storks *Leptoptilos crumeniferus*.

### List of waterbird species recorded at Tshootsha on 19 March 2017

#### **Cape Shoveler *Anas smithii***

One was present.

#### **Red-billed Teal *Anas erythrorhyncha***

38 birds were present, including an adult with eight tiny young and an adult with one tiny young.

#### **Red-knobbed Coot *Fulica cristata***

Four birds were present, including an adult on a nest.

#### **Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis***

14 birds were present.

#### **Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia***

20 birds were present.

**Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola***

The species was fairly common at Tshootsha though birds were not counted.

**Little Stint *Calidris minuta***

Circa 80 were present.

**Ruff *Philomachus pugnax***

The species was fairly common at Tshootsha though birds were not counted.

**Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus***

Six birds were present.

**Common Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula***

One bird was present.

**Kittlitz's Plover *Charadrius pecuarius***

20 were present.

**Blacksmith Lapwing *Vanellus armatus***

86 birds were present.

**Collared Pratincole *Glareola pratincola***

One bird was present.

**Black-winged Pratincole *Glareola nordmanni***

A flock of circa 50 birds was present.

**Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybrid***

One bird was present.

**White-winged Tern *Chlidonias leucopterus***

12 birds were present.

**Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis***

Two birds were present.

**Little Egret *Egretta garzetta***

One bird was present.

**Yellow-billed Egret *Egretta intermedia***

One bird was present.

**Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea***

One bird was present.

**Glossy Ibis *Plegadus falcinellus***

One bird was present.

**Marabou Stork *Leptoptilos crumeniferus***

310 were roosting at the stony pan to the east of the village.

**Other species:** An African Harrier-Hawk *Polyboroides typus* was seen.

There are few records of this species in the Kalahari.

**Discussion**

Western Botswana is an arid area with no permanent surface water and only, exceptionally, after periods of heavy rainfall, do pans hold water for more than a few days. The occurrence of waterbirds in the area is, accordingly, spasmodic, though it is clear that many waterbird species do occur when conditions are suitable. From 8 to 10 April 2015 a total of 26 species of waterbird were recorded at Tshootsha and several other localities in western Botswana; 18 of which were recorded at Tshootsha. On 19 March 2017 a total 22 species of waterbird were recorded at Tshootsha.

Several of the species recorded in both 2015 and 2017 were Palearctic migrants, namely Marsh Sandpiper, Wood Sandpiper, Common Greenshank, Little Stint, Ruff and Common Ringed Plover; all these species appear likely to regularly occur in the Kalahari when conditions are suitable. The records at Tshootsha and elsewhere in April 2015 and March 2017 also indicate that Black-winged Stilt and Blacksmith Lapwing and, possibly, Kittlitz's Plover occur regularly in the Kalahari when conditions are suitable. White-winged Tern was not recorded at all in April 2017, but Penry (1994) recorded it at two squares in western Botswana and it appears likely that it occasionally occurs in the Kalahari when conditions are suitable.

Black-winged Pratincole is a common non-breeding summer visitor to the Makgadikgadi region, to the northern CKGR and to the western and southern fringes of the Okavango but its occurrence at Tshootsha, outside of its known range, was unexpected. Though Penry (1994) recorded Grey Heron in only one square in western Botswana, the species was recorded at two squares in April 2015 and again at Tshootsha in March 2017, indicating that its occurrence in western Botswana might be expected if conditions are suitable. The records of Collared Pratincole, Whiskered Tern, Glossy Ibis, little Egret and Yellow-billed Egret were most unexpected and these species are most likely to be vagrants to the Kalahari; Penry (1994) recorded Glossy Ibis in one square in western Botswana with no records at all of the other four species.



The records of Red-knobbed Coot and Little Grebe at Tshootsha in both April 2015 and March 2017 indicate an extension of the known distributional ranges, at least partially, into western Botswana. The breeding records of Red-billed Teal and Red-knobbed Coot at Tshootsha are notable; most waterbird species recorded in the Kalahari are likely to be non-breeding migrants or visitors.

### **Kalahari sandveld to the northeast of Tshootsa**

From S 22° 00' E 21° 00', where the Botswana/Namibia border has a 90° corner to the northeast of Tshootsha, a cut-line runs due south through Kalahari sandveld. After camping a few kilometres along this cut-line on the night of 18 March, the next morning provided excellent Kalahari birding and a total of 55 species recorded in a few hours. The area was a mixture of open areas dominated by shrubs and bushes and both broadleaved and acacia tree savanna. Birding here was a real pleasure and showed that if the effort is made, a good variety of species can be seen in the Kalahari, even where there are no pans.

The day started well on 19 March 2017 when, well before sunrise, eight Red-footed Falcons *Falco vespertinus* flew overhead. This species is often overlooked as in the middle of the day it forages high in the air, out of sight. A single immature Amur Flacon *Falco amurensis* was also seen later in the morning. Some other Palaeartic migrants were also observed, all presumably soon to migrate. Icterine Warblers *Hippolais icterina* were in song in acacia tree savanna and a single Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata* was present in the same habitat. Common Whitethroats *Sylvia communis* were present in more open areas, their presence given away by their distinctive *skaaa* calls. European Bee-eaters *Merops apiaster* were fairly common and both Barn Swallows *Hirundo rustica* and Lesser Grey Shrikes *Lanius minor* were also present.

Both Brown-crowned Tchagras *Tchagra australis* and, at the edge of its distributional range, Black-crowned Tchagras *Tchagra senegalus* could be heard in the early morning, when Orange River Francolins *Scleroptila levaillantoides* could also be heard calling. A variety of species were present in tree savanna including Brubru *Nilaus afer*, Common Scimitarbill *Rhinopomastus cyanomelas*, Violet-eared Waxbill *Granatina granatina*, Golden-breasted Bunting *Emberiza flaviventris* and Black-throated Canary *Crithagra atrogularis*, the latter at the edge of its distributional range. In more open areas there were Chat Flycatchers *Bradornis infuscatus*, Eastern Clapper Larks *Mirafra fasciolata* and Rufous-eared Warblers *Malcorus pectoralis*, the latter, at the edge of its distributional range, giving its presence away by its characteristic call. Along the cut-line were several Buffy Pipits *Anthus vaalensis*, a summer visitor to the Kalahari and a single Kori Bustard *Ardeotis kori* flew overhead.

Cape Turtle Dove *Streptopelia capicola*, as is often the case in the Kalahari, was the only dove species recorded.

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**Chris A. Brewster, P.O.Box 26292, Gaborone**



Bateleur

*Photo: Richard Randall*

## Lake Ngami in February 2017

The lake area was beautiful as always, but the water was very far away. We were on the east side from Toteng going in the direction of Bothathogo and from our camp the lake was too far to reach.

After the massive rains in January/early February the vegetation was in parts 1.5 m high, especially at the edge of the trees. What was open land was now covered high with vegetation, so that you could not see stumps or logs which made driving difficult and the ground quickly turned 'bottomless' after the rains.

The first day while setting up camp we had about 100 mm of rain (one guide said it felt like 200), and the water was running ankle deep between us through the future camp. So we moved and set up the tents on a higher location, but another rainstorm got us and we tried to save some things to stay dry. We had to return to Maun that first night.

As the lake was very far from our camp, we did no waterbird count but were busy in the woods with owls, chats, cuckoos, scimitarbills, starlings, whydhas, cisticolas etc.

Every day we looked out over the lake and saw two flocks of what we thought to be Whiskered Terns *Chlidonias hybridus* foraging far down in the dead tree area (the water was still behind that and the ground was too soggy to go there) of about 300 - 500 birds flying forth and back. During some days Barn Swallows *Hirundo rustica* were passing through towards dusk, going south, maybe in the low thousands. Pelicans in smaller flocks of up to ten, about 20 Lesser Flamingos flying, about 30 pratincoles (either Collared or Black-winged?) flying over and several flocks of about 10 Black Egrets.

**Ursula Franke**

## Some sightings at Dovedale Farm

We were on a farm called Dovedale in the Tuli Block over Christmas 2016. The whole area was very dry but the Bonwapitse River held significant water, especially at the weir on Dovedale.

Good waterbirds on 24 December were: a Spotted Crake *Porzana porzana*, two Allen's Gallinule *Porphyrio alleni* (one non-breeding and an immature), three Lesser Moorhens *Gallinula angulata* (two adults and an immature), several (>12) Greater Painted-snipe *Rostratula benghalensis* (males far more numerous) and three Black-crowned Night Herons *Nycticorax nycticorax* (an adult and two juveniles).

There was also a calling Olive-tree Warbler *Hippolais olivetorum* on the edge of the weir, as well as a Thrush Nightingale *Luscinia luscinia* further downstream close to where the Bonwapitse River meets the Limpopo.

**Adrian Haagner**



Greater Painted-Snipe

*Photo: Ian White*

## What is the current status of Orange-breasted Waxbills in Botswana?

Stephanie J. Tyler

In correspondence with Chris Brewster in June 2017 he indicated that Orange-breasted Waxbills *Sporaeginthus subflavus* were now rarely recorded in Botswana. He had only recently seen them at Mogobane Dam and one other site despite visiting many wetlands in the south-east of the country.

In my years in Botswana from 1996 to 2001 I regarded them as locally common so have they really disappeared or are they just not recorded now? This note is intended to persuade you to send in any records of this attractive little waxbill to establish its current status.

In southern Africa Orange-breasted Waxbills occur in upland grasslands of the eastern half of the subcontinent – centres of distribution are on Zimbabwe's Mashonland plateau and in the central Highveld of South Africa. They prefer moist grasslands, grassy savannas and marshes (Colahan 1997).

Botswana is right at the edge of the species' range with small populations in the north and in the extreme east and southeast of the country. Penry (1994) regarded the waxbills as a sparse and very localised resident in isolated localities in the north and east.

Beesley & Irving (1976) regarded the species as not common, seen in large or small flocks in damp grassland, near dams and sewage works and sometimes in weedy fields. Barnes & Bushell (1989) noted that the waxbills were somewhat sporadically reported in small groups in marshy areas and rank grass. Beesley & Irving and Barnes & Bushell remarked that the birds appeared never to stay in one place for long.

Tyler & Borello (1998) described the species as locally frequent in marshes and swamps but erratically recorded. Flocks appeared to be highly mobile but birds were regular at some sites such as Phakalane Sewage Ponds.

### Records in southeast Botswana

Abernethy & Herremans (1994) noted that Orange-breasted Waxbills were commonly reported throughout the year from at least six sites in the Gaborone area and they quoted high counts of 40 at Mogobane Dam, 35 at Gaborone Dam and 20 at Gaborone Game Reserve. In July 1995 Dave Bishop saw 50 in the Yacht Club area of Gaborone Dam (Brewster 1997) During fieldwork at Phakalane S.P. in the late 1990s I considered the species as abundant at times.

I caught and ringed 24 individuals between November 1996 and April 1997 and 25 in June and July 1997, then 118 in 1998 up to mid-November. In 1999 the lagoons dried out and the reeds *Phragmites australis* and reed-mace *Typha capensis* fringes were burnt but in early 2000 the lagoons re-filled and reeds re-grew and Orange-breasted Waxbills returned (Brewster 1997, Brewster & Tyler 1998, 2000). However, it is clear that they no longer occur at the sewage lagoons at Phakalane.

Elsewhere in the southeast one was seen at Lobatse S.P. in January 1999 and five there in February 1999 (Brewster & Tyler 1999).

In the period from 2000 Chris Brewster saw 40 at Mogobane Dam in December 2004, seven in July 2007, about 10 in August 2009 and one in April 2010, then 20 in April 2012 (Brewster & Tyler 2006, 2008, 2010, 2012). Flocks have also often been recorded in recent years at Gaborone Dam when water levels are low (Ian White, pers. comm.). There have been no other records since 2000 until Chris Brewster noted a pair on the Taung River floodplain south of Boatile (in 2425D4) in late June 2017.

#### Records in eastern Botswana

Up to 20 were at Talana Marsh between March and September 1996 (Brewster 1997). Two were then seen at Talana Marsh in January 1999 and seven in late April; a pair was seen at the marsh between March and May 2000 and an adult was seen carrying food, presumably feeding young during that time; (Brewster & Tyler 1999, 2000).

A small flock of about five birds was seen in a marsh west of Mashatu Game Reserve in May 2015 (Brewster & Tyler 2015).

#### Records in northern Botswana

Brewster (1991) had three records in the Gumare area of the Okavango Panhandle, all in grassland by water on the floodplain, at Xanxa in July and in October 1986 and north of Qaaxhwa in July 1987. Colahan (1997) noted a record along the Okavango in Namibia but there are no other records for the Okavango Delta in Botswana in recent years (see map for the species on the SABAP2 website).

Abernethy & Herremans (1994) reported two records from the northern floodplains – at Sedudu Island in the Chobe floodplain in March 1993 and a pair at Parakarunga in February 1994. Several flocks were seen at Sedudu Island between November 1996 and June 1997 (Richard Randall, in Brewster 1997).

There was one along a watercourse southeast of Pandamatenga in April 2003 and two on the Chobe floodplain west of Kasane in July 2003.

Two adults and three juveniles were seen near Satau on the Chobe floodplain in August 2003 and a group of 10 there also in August (Brewster & Tyler 2003). Grant Reed reported that the only colony he knew of was a flock that inhabited and nested in the reeds *Phragmites australis* and adjacent grassland on Puku Flats inside Chobe National Park. They were pushed out by the floods of 2009-12. Richard Randall (pers.comm.) also noted that they were resident in small flocks on Puku Flats and had recorded them most years since 1992 to the end of 2016 when the area was not flooded. He also saw small flocks (irregularly in the 1990s, up to 2001) in the grassy edges near the Chobe/Zambezi junction but he has not been there since. Tim Frayne has seen them in the past at the Mowana golf course in Kasane.

#### Breeding season

The first evidence of breeding in Botswana was in 1995 when Dave Bishop observed five recently fledged young in May at Phakalane S.P. (Skinner 1996). Juveniles were caught by me at the sewage ponds in July 1997 and June and July 1998 and subsequently from May to August. In May 2000 a pair was visiting a probable nest site (Brewster & Tyler 1998, 2000). As noted above, juveniles were seen at Satau in north-east Botswana in August and a pair was feeding young at Talana Marsh in May. Egg-laying seems therefore to be mainly from April to June.

#### Present status

It is likely that the dry periods experienced by Botswana in recent years have resulted in a retreat of Orange-breasted Waxbills, at least partially, from Botswana. They seem to have disappeared entirely from the Okavango Delta. The species is at the limits of its southern African distribution in Botswana and Penry (1994) noted that in the Botswana Atlas years the paucity of records may have been attributable to the effects of drought causing a contraction in range. Another species, the Orange-throated Longclaw *Macronyx capensis*, has the same fluctuations and contraction in range after dry periods, creeping into the extreme south-east of Botswana in wet years.

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## Another Ross's Turaco in Botswana

Stephanie J. Tyler & Chris A. Brewster

Ross's Turaco or Lady Ross's Violet Plantain-eater *Musophaga rossae* has its main range from south-west Sudan, Zaire across through Uganda to the west Kenyan highlands south through Tanzania to northern Angola and northern and western Zambia. It frequents the canopy of patches of evergreen gallery and riparian forest (Fry *et al.* 1988). Botswana is very much at the southern edge of its range, some 200km from the nearest population outside the country.

However, on 7 October 1974 Tim Liversedge from Maun saw a Ross's Turaco when driving between Shakawe and Toteng and so that he would be believed, he shot it. His specimen, that cannot be located, came from 16 km east south east of Ikoga in the Panhandle of the Okavango River. Penry (1994) referred to this specimen and also to sight records in northern Botswana during the Botswana Atlas years but these records were not substantiated although the species is unmistakable. During fieldwork for the first southern African Atlas there were no sight records in the region (Harrison *et al.* 1997). Hockey *et al.* (2005) though referred to a sight record from the Zambezi River at Kazungula on the Zimbabwe/Zambia border and an unsubstantiated record from the Caprivi Strip in Namibia in addition to the Ikoga bird.

Then on 9 August 2011 almost 40 years since the Ikoga bird, there was a second substantiated Botswana record, a bird seen by David Luck at Boscia Lagoon in the Linyanti (Brewster 2011). On 12 August 2017, Tshepo Phala who has 11 years guiding experience was out with a professional wildlife photographer, Aaron Baggenster, and they saw and photographed one near Wilderness Safari's King's Pool in the Linyanti. On 16 August the bird was still present in the Linyanti concession but 1 - 2km from the original site. It was seen and photographed by Robbie Engela and Jacques Fourie on or around 20 August and was seen again near King's Pool Camp on 23 August by Pieter and Adele Odendaal and in the evenings of 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> in a Sycamore Fig by John Bradshaw and Joan Siggers. Another bird guide, Ona Leggopho saw it on 30 August.

Hancock & Weiersbye (2016) suggested that Ross's Turacos may be seen more frequently in decades when the Linyanti, Okavango and Zambezi Rivers have above average water levels; at such times riparian forest forms a well-developed corridor from Zambia into Botswana.

Three other species of turaco are known in the country – the widespread Grey Go-away-bird *Corythaixoides concolor* and two category 'A' rarities that are occasionally seen in the Kasane area – the Purple-crested *Gallirex porphyreolophus* that has only been confirmed once and Schalow's Turacos *Tauraco schalowi*, the latter being regular in the Kasane area but not elsewhere.

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Ross Turaco

## **Bird-atlassing in south-eastern Botswana: some observations on common bird species**

**Chris A. Brewster**

### **Introduction**

The second Southern African Bird Atlas Project (SABAP2) has been in operation since 2007. The area covered by SABAP2 includes Botswana. The unit of data collection for SABAP2 is the pentad, five minutes of longitude by five minutes of latitude; that is squares of side approximately nine kilometres. Field work for SABAP2 involves visiting pentads for a minimum of two hours and recording all bird species seen or heard in the order that they are encountered.

The majority of coverage for SABAP2 in Botswana has been in the north of the country, particularly in the areas frequented by tourists. Field work there has been undertaken mainly by visitors from South Africa and Namibia and, notably, by Marjorie and Gavin Blair. Elsewhere in Botswana much less field work has been done for SABAP2.

In an effort to improve coverage for SABAP2 in south-eastern Botswana, many pentads were visited and atlassed there in recent months, from December 2016 to August 2017. Most of the pentads atlassed were within 50 km of Gaborone, though a few were more distant, up to 100 km from Gaborone. Some of the pentads visited were in the area between Gaborone, Kanye and Lobatse, where there are quite extensive areas of predominantly broad-leaved woodland on hills, as well as extensive areas of agricultural land. Some of the other pentads visited were to the south of the Kanye – Lobatse road, towards Mmathethe, Good Hope and Pitsane. In this area, to the south of the Lobatse to Kanye road, there are large areas of open acacia tree savanna and agricultural land. The avifauna of this area was less diverse than in pentads atlassed further north. Most of the remaining pentads visited were north to north-eastwards from Gaborone, in the catchment of the Ngotwane River, where vegetation is predominantly acacia savanna and bush savanna. No atlassing was done in Gaborone, though the pentad that includes Gaborone Game Reserve and Glen Valley was atlassed. A minimum of two hours field work was done in each pentad visited, though in a few pentads several hours of field work were undertaken.

One of the pleasures of bird-atlassing is that an effort is made to visit all habitats and places in each pentad that would not normally be visited in a day's birding. As an effort, also, is made to record all species, then information is gleaned on species, particularly common species, that would probably not be of interest in a day's birding.

As a result, some interesting information on the distribution and abundance of the more common bird species in the area was learned. This information is presented below. Although waterbirds, of course, were included in the atlassing, no information on waterbirds is presented here as waterbird species, due to the bi-annual waterbird counts, tend to be better known than other bird species.

Initially, in December 2016, due to poor early rains and the low rainfall of the preceding summer, there was very little ground cover and thickets were depleted. This degradation of habitat had an impact on the bird species recorded. However, from early January 2017 until late February 2017, the area experienced heavy rainfall which resulted in a complete recovery of ground vegetation and recovery of thickets, which had a positive impact on the bird species recorded from late summer into winter.

In Tyler and Borello (1998) there is an annotated checklist of all species that had been recorded within 50 km of Gaborone. The area covered by Tyler and Borello is more compact than the area in which atlassing was undertaken from December 2016 onwards. Nevertheless a comparison can be made for many species between Tyler and Borello (1998) and their current status. For most species the status is apparently unchanged, but in some cases there appear to have been changes in the past 20 years. The comments below refer only to a selection of the more common species; there is no attempt to present a comprehensive checklist of the status of all bird species occurring within the area.

### **Comments on bird species**

#### **PIGEONS AND DOVES:**

Both Cape Turtle Dove *Streptopelia capicola* and Laughing Dove *Streptopelia senegalensis* were abundant in the area. There was, however, an apparent difference in the status of the two species. Laughing Dove was found to be abundant in cultivated areas and around habitation, where it was evidently far more numerous than Cape Turtle Dove, but in other habitats, particularly in woodland, it was much less numerous than the abundant Cape Turtle Dove. The latter species appeared to be the most abundant of all bird species occurring in south-eastern Botswana. Namaqua Dove *Oena capensis* was considered to be a common resident by Tyler and Borello, but from December to February it was uncommon with few records apart from in savanna in 2426A1, to the north of Thagale Dam, where it was fairly common. After the rains it became more numerous and widespread, indicating that the species is subject to movements, but it appeared to be still largely restricted to savanna and cultivation.

Emerald-spotted Wood Dove *Turtur chalcospilos* was considered by Tyler and Borello to be a frequent or common resident in any woodland, riverine vegetation and around kopjes and this was also found to be the case, except that, unexpectedly, it was also found, to be fairly common in savanna in 2426A1. The status of Red-eyed Dove *Streptopelia semitorquata*, a locally common resident, was unchanged from Tyler and Borello (1998).

#### BEE-EATERS:

Little Bee-eater *Merops pusillus* was found to be localised, with most records in savanna from Gaborone northwards and in savanna south of the Lobatse to Kanye road. Swallow-tailed Bee-eater *Merops hirundineus* was also found to be localised and uncommon during the period of bird-atlassing with the few records being in savanna northwards from Gaborone.

#### ROLLERS:

There were few records of Lilac-breasted Roller *Coracias caudatus*, which appeared to be an uncommon and localised resident, and there were only two records of Purple Roller *Coracias naevius*. Tyler and Borello (1998) considered Lilac-breasted to be a frequent resident and /or partial migrant and Purple Roller to be an uncommon to frequent resident, so possibly these two species have become less common.

#### HORNBILLS:

Tyler and Borello (1998) considered both Southern Yellow-billed Hornbill *Tockus leucomelas* and Southern Red-billed Hornbill *Tockus rufirostris* to be common residents; the status of these two species appears unchanged. African Grey Hornbill *Tockus nasutus* appeared to be not as widespread as Southern Yellow-billed Hornbill and most, though not all, records came from broad-leaved woodland on hills.

#### WOODPECKERS:

The most frequently recorded species was Cardinal Woodpecker *Dendropicus fuscescens*, which was considered as frequent to common by Tyler and Borello (1998); its status appears unchanged. There were few records of Bearded Woodpecker *Dendropicus namaquus*. Tyler and Borello considered it to be uncommon and, again, its status appears unchanged. There were also few records of Golden-tailed Woodpecker *Campethera abingoni*. This species was considered as frequent by Tyler and Borello, but the lack of records indicates that it has possibly become less common.

#### LARKS:

Chestnut-backed Sparrow-lark *Eremopterix leucotis* was unrecorded in the summer months, with the first record being in May 2017, in agricultural land.

It was subsequently recorded regularly and was found to be common at Kgoro Pan and near Gathwane (in 2525A4) in June 2017, although it had been absent there in January and February. It seems likely that this nomadic species moved into the area after the summer rains.

#### CUCKOOSHRIKES:

Black Cuckooshrike *Campephaga flava* was found to be frequent in broad-leaved woodland on hills in December and January and was nearly always located by call. It was recorded less frequently from February to April, possibly because it was less vocal and, as expected for an intra-African migrant, was unrecorded in winter. Tyler and Borello (1998) considered it to be uncommon.

#### WARBLERS, CISTICOLAS AND PRINIAS:

Away from water, four species of Palearctic warblers were recorded in summer. Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus* was fairly common in any woodland. Icterine Warbler *Hippolais icterina* was frequent and showed a preference for acacias, such as along watercourses, and was noticeably less common than Willow Warbler. Olivetree Warbler *Hippolais olivetorum* was fairly common and predictable in acacia thicket. Common Whitethroat *Sylvia communis* was only recorded in savanna in 2426A1, where several were noted in March. The main non-breeding range of this species in Botswana is probably further north.

Of the resident warblers, Long-billed Crombec *Sylvietta rufescens* and Chestnut-vented Tit-babbler *Parisoma subcaeruleum* were the most common and predictable, the former being present in any woodland and savanna while the latter showed a preference for acacias. Barred Wren-Warbler *Calamonastes fasciolatus* was also common in woodland and savanna, with a preference for acacias. Grey-backed Carmaroptera *Carmaroptera brevicaudata* was also common, mainly in woodland and thickets. Although Tyler and Borello (1998) considered Burnt-necked Eremomela *Eremomela usticollis* to be uncommon to frequent, it was found to be common and predictable wherever there were acacias. On the other hand, Yellow-bellied Eremomela *Eremomela icteropygialis*, was uncommon, with few records, the majority of which were south of the Kanye to Lobatse road. Tyler and Borello though considered it to be uncommon to locally frequent. It is possible that Yellow-bellied Eremomela has become less common in recent years.

Neddicky *Cisticola fulvicapilla* was uncommon; it was recorded at several localities, but did not appear to be confined to a particular habitat. It was recorded in woodland and also in bush and open tree savanna to the south

of the Lobatse to Kanye road. There was a lack of Desert Cisticola *Cisticola aridula* records in the summer, due, presumably, to the lack of grass cover, but the species became more evident after the summer rains; this species is subject to movements in response to the availability of grass cover.

#### FLYCATCHERS:

Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata* was common in woodland. There were several records of Southern Black Flycatcher *Melaenornis pammelaina*; it appeared to be an uncommon resident. Tyler and Borello (1998) considered Southern Black Flycatcher to be uncommon to rare, but of uncertain status. The few records of Fiscal Flycatcher *Sigelus silens* were to the south of Lobatse, where it appears to be an uncommon resident and in 2017 there was no evidence of a winter influx. Tyler and Borello too regarded it as resident south of Lobatse. Chinspot Batis *Batis molitor* was a common and predictable resident in woodland and savanna throughout most of the area. There was a single record of Pirit Batis *Batis pririt* at Kgoro Pan.

#### SHRIKES:

There were a few records of Southern Fiscal *Lanius collaris*, all to the south of Gaborone, including a breeding record at Ramotswa and it appeared to be an uncommon resident. Tyler and Borello considered them as an uncommon winter visitor, though resident to the south of Lobatse. Red-backed Shrike *Lanius collurio* was very common in a range of habitats though it particularly favoured acacia savanna and thickets; it was the most numerous of all Palearctic migrants. Due to it being very numerous and, also, that its presence can be easily overlooked when it is not calling, it is difficult to ascertain if there has been any change in the status of Red-backed Shrike in recent years. In contrast Lesser Grey Shrike *Lanius minor*, another Palearctic migrant, was much less numerous than Red-backed Shrike, being uncommon to fairly common in more open areas. Tyler and Borello considered Lesser Grey Shrike to be frequent to common, so possibly it has become less numerous in recent years.

#### BUSH-SHRIKES:

Southern Boubou *Laniarius ferrugineus* was a common resident, in riverine vegetation along watercourses and in thickets, in the catchment of the Ngotwane River, but not further south. The most northerly record was at Thagale Dam, though it possibly extends further north along the Ngotwane River. Tyler and Borello considered it to be uncommon and the first record for Botswana, remarkably, was, at Lobatse, only in 1984 (Aldiss and Hunter 1985). It appears likely that this species has become more common in recent years. Brubru *Nilaus afer* was fairly common in both woodland and savanna.

Brown-crowned Tchagra *Tchagra australis* was a common resident in savanna and woodland; its status is unchanged from Tyler and Borello (1998). Black-crowned Tchagra *Tchagra australis* was only recorded in open savanna on hill tops at Otse, where it appeared to be a fairly common resident, and in the same habitat, also at Lobatse. Tyler and Borello (1998) considered it to be rare and of uncertain status, but it was possibly overlooked then as the area in which it occurs is difficult to access. Its preferred habitat in south-eastern Botswana, open savanna on hill tops, is restricted to a few hills around Lobatse and Otse.

Orange-breasted Bush-shrike *Telephorus sulfureopectus* was a common resident in riverine vegetation along watercourses and in woodland; it was, however, considered to be rare to uncommon by Tyler and Borello (1998). Grey-headed Bush-shrike *Malaconotus blanchoti* was fairly common in riverine vegetation, in thickets and woodland, though its distribution did not seem to be as extensive as that of Southern Boubou and Orange-breasted Bush-shrike. Tyler and Borello considered it to be rare and of uncertain status.

#### OXPECKERS:

Red-billed Oxpecker *Buphagus erythrorhynchus* was common and predictable throughout most of the area, wherever livestock were present. Tyler and Borello (1998) considered it to be uncommon to frequent, so it has probably become more numerous in recent years.

#### SUNBIRDS:

White-bellied Sunbird *Cinnyris talatala* and Marico Sunbird *Cinnyris mariquensis* were both common residents, though subject to movements in response to the flowering of trees and other plants. Both species became less common in late summer and early winter. There was a difference in the habitat preferences of the two species. White-bellied Sunbird was more evident in mixed and broad-leaved woodland, while Marico Sunbird showed a preference for acacia savanna. Apart from a single record of Amethyst Sunbird *Chalcomitra amethystina* in April, there were no records of this species until July when there was a clear evidence of an influx in response to the flowering of aloes.

#### WAXBILLS, FIREFINCHES ETC:

From December 2016 until June 2017 there was only a single record of Red-billed Finch *Lagonosticta senegala*, at a well near Ranaka, east of Kanye, although there were two records of singing male Village Indigobirds *Vidua chalybeata*, the host parasite of Red-billed Firefinch, to the south of Mmathethe, in March and April 2017.



The presence of a singing male Village Indigobird indicates that its host, Red-billed Firefinch, is probably present. From June 2017 onwards there were a few records of Red-billed Firefinch. Apart from at Notwane, south of Gaborone, Jameson's Firefinch *Lagonsticta* was unrecorded until late March 2017, though subsequently there were a few records. Both these species were considered as frequent to common by Tyler and Borello (1998) and it is possible they have become less numerous in recent years. The absence of records of these two firefinch species, Red-billed Firefinch and Jameson's Firefinch, in early summer is evidence of movements undertaken by these species; there appears to be a partial movement out of the area during periods when it is dry and there is a reduced availability of food.

Blue Waxbill *Uraeginthus angolensis* was relatively uncommon in December and January, though numbers subsequently recovered, presumably due to the recovery of vegetation following the onset of the rains. Like the two firefinch species, this species appears to partially move out of the area when conditions are dry. This species was considered as abundant by Tyler and Borello (1998). Though often very common, it drinks regularly and it is noticeably less numerous where water is not available. Violet-eared Waxbill *Granatina granatina* was unrecorded in December and January, though from late February onwards it was recorded regularly. Violet-eared Waxbill was considered as a common resident by Tyler and Borello (1998) but possibly it has become less common in recent years. Black-faced Waxbill *Estrilda erythronotos* was considered as frequent by Tyler and Borello (1998) and though there were relatively few records of this species, its status is possibly unchanged. There were only two records of Common Waxbill *Estrilda astrild*, a species considered as a common but localised resident by Tyler and Borello (1998). While it might have been overlooked, this species may have become less common in recent years. African Quail-finch *Ortygospiza atricollis* was recorded fairly commonly, mainly in damp grassland. This species is nomadic and the heavy rainfall in early 2017 probably resulted in an influx of this species.

#### CANARIES AND BUNTINGS:

Tyler and Borello (1998) considered Yellow-fronted Canary *Crithagra mozambicus* as a common resident but there were relatively few records of this species, which were mainly in the vicinity of woodland. It has possibly become less common in recent years. Black-throated Canary *Crithagra atrogularis* was more widespread than Yellow-fronted Canary but, like that species, could not be regarded as common. Tyler and Borello (1998) too considered this species as a common resident, so it has also possibly become less common in recent years. Yellow Canary *Crithagra flaviventris* was more numerous than the other two species and it was mostly recorded in savanna, cultivation and other open areas. Tyler and Borello (1998) considered it to be frequent, that is less numerous than the other two species.

## **Discussion**

The status of most species appears to be unchanged since Tyler and Borello (1998). However, for a few species, such as some species of waxbills, firefinches and canaries, there is some evidence that there may have been a decline in numbers in recent years; all these species are primarily, or partially, seed-eaters. Rollers also possibly have become less common.

Prior to early 2017, when there was heavy rainfall, there have been several relatively dry summers. The impact of these dry years on vegetation and availability of food possibly has had impact on some bird species. Human activity too, particularly the grazing of livestock, which results in the depletion of ground vegetation and of thickets, has also probably had a negative effect on bird populations by reducing the availability of food. Where pressure of livestock is greatest, and grass cover and thickets are depleted, the reduced numbers of many bird species can be clearly noted. To give two examples, in Gaborone Game Reserve and to the south of Ramotswa, where, for much of the year, there is a noticeable lack of ground vegetation and of thickets, the low numbers of many bird species has been noticeable. This degradation of habitat, resulting in a reduced availability in food is not only likely to affect resident bird species, but also migrant species, such as Red-backed Shrike. Whether there has been any reduction in the numbers of Red-backed Shrike in Botswana, which is at the heart of its non-breeding range, is unclear but it seems very possible, as it is apparently less numerous where there is much overgrazing and degradation of habitat.

For a few species there is some evidence of an improvement in status in recent years. Red-billed Oxpecker certainly appears to have become more numerous, presumably due to increasing numbers of livestock. Southern Boubou too appears to have become more numerous and, possibly, there has been some range expansion of this species. The status of some other species, such as Southern Black Flycatcher, Orange-breasted Bush-shrike and Grey-headed Bush-shrike, has also improved, but it is unclear if these species have become more numerous or have become more evident.

Some species do undertake movements. There was clear evidence of Namaqua Dove, Chestnut-backed Sparrow-lark and African Quail-finch undertaking movements and these species are likely to be, at least partially, nomadic. It was also evident for species, like Jameson's Firefinch, Red-billed Firefinch and Blue Waxbill, and probably also other species, that there is a partial movement out of the area in dry years, particularly in late winter and early summer.

### REFERENCES

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**Tyler, S. J. and Borello, W. D.** 1998. *Birds of the Gaborone Area*. Botswana Bird Club. Gaborone.



Black-winged Stilt

*Photo: Ian White*

## Highlights of the July 2016, January 2017 and July 2017 Waterbird Counts

Stephanie J. Tyler

### July 2016 dry season waterbird counts

Table 1. Counts in Botswana in July 2015 (Total number of waterbirds counted with number of species in shown too) N.C.=no count

	No. Birds	No. Species		No. Birds	No. Species
<b>South-east Botswana</b>	<b>5,395</b>	<b>50</b>	Phakalane S.P.	858	30
Bathoen Dam	57	9	Ramotswa S.P.	412	16
Bokaa Dam	574	26	Sojwe Pan	147	17
Broadhurst S.P/ Gaborone GR	698	29	Shadishadi Pan	393	19
Gaborone Dam	358	21	Thagale Dam	472	23
Gamoleele Dam	N.C.		<b>North-east Botswana</b>	<b>12,963</b>	<b>55</b>
Jwaneng S.P.	39	5	Savuti Channel	1	1
Lobatse S.P.	444	21	Savuti Marsh Dry	0	0
Mahalapye S.P.	473	23	Linyanti River	249	28
Mogobane Dam	201	26	Lake Liambezi	987	28
Moshupa Dam	269	17	Chobe N.P. pans	51	2
Ngotwane Dam	N.C.		Chobe River	11,675	52



Magpie Shrikes

Photo: Richard Randall

### South-east Botswana

Table 2. The Top 12 species (highest combined counts all sites) in south-east Botswana in July 2016

Red-billed Teal	939	Southern Pochard	243
Little Grebe	903	Black-winged Stilt	239
Red-knobbed Coot	426	Cape Teal	168
Egyptian Goose	414	White-faced Duck	136
Blacksmith Lapwing	404	Three-banded Plover	133
Lesser Flamingo	292	Common Moorhen	99

Other highlights included 40 Black-necked Grebes, most (35) at Shadishadi Pan with four at Sojwe Pan and one at Jwaneng S.P., 39 South African Shelduck and 85 Maccoa Duck (37 at Mahahalpye S.P., 23 at Moshupa Dam, 17 at Shadishadi Pan and four each at Sojwe Pan and Phakalane S.P.). Yellow-billed Storks are not common in the south-east so of note was a total of 17.

### North-east Botswana

Table 3. The Top 12 species (highest combined counts all sites) in north-east Botswana in July 2016

African Reed Cormorant	1,787	Glossy Ibis	656
Egyptian Goose	1,040	African Spurwing (goose)	512
White Pelican	918	African Spoonbill	465
Little Egret	764	African Jacana	446
Blacksmith Lapwing	729	Yellow-billed Stork	406
Great Egret	660	Red-billed Teal	402

Of note were the counts of 398 Black Herons and 16 Slaty Egrets along the Chobe River.

**January 2017 wet season waterbird counts****Table 4.** Counts in Botswana in January 2017 (Total number of waterbirds counted with number of species in shown too) N.C.= no count

	No. Birds	No. Species		No. Birds	No. Species
<b>South-east Botswana</b>	<b>5730</b>	<b>55</b>	Thagale Dam	108	17
Bathoen Dam	40	9	Tswaiing Pans	189	19
Bokaa Dam	535	24	*5 pans in SE in Feb/March	789	41
Broadhurst S.P/ Gaborone GR	1259	31			
Gaborone Dam					
Gamoleele Dam	123	12	<b>Okavango system</b>		
Jwaneng S.P.	427	22	Jao & Kwetsani Flats	517	31
Kgoro Pan	247	16			
Lobatse S.P.	532	32	<b>North-east Botswana</b>	<b>5,489</b>	<b>62</b>
Mahalapye S.P.	454	20	Lake Liambezi	275	13
Mogobane Dam	227	16	Savuti Marsh/ Channel - Dry	60	13
Moshupa Dam	89	10	Linyanti River	283	27
Phakalane S.P.	914	15	Chobe NP pans in Savute	1,166	35
Ramotswa S.P	586	20	Chobe River	3,705	43

The counts at five pans in the Mmathethe area in late Feb/early March are excluded from the south-east Botswana totals.

**South-east Botswana**

The number of birds and diversity of species varies hugely with water levels. Recently filled pans and reservoirs are generally poor for birds until vegetation becomes established and invertebrate numbers increase; conversely drying water-bodies can be excellent as mud is exposed and prey is concentrated. In January 2017 south-east Botswana 'had it all' – firstly low water levels after a long period without rain and then overflowing water-bodies after the heavy rains. The timing of a count can therefore greatly influence the results.

Some sites such as Bokaa and Moshupa Dams and Phakalane Sewage Ponds were visited when it was over-full so numbers were lower than usual.

Of particular note at regular sites was the large number of White-winged Terns, especially at Tsholofelo/Broadhurst S.P. (600 birds) and Phakalane S.P. (750).

Table 5. The Top 12 species (highest combined counts at all sites but excluding late Feb/March counts at pans in the Mmathethe area) in south-east Botswana in January 2017.

White-winged Tern	1725	Cattle Egret	270
Blacksmith Lapwing	451	Red-knobbed Coot	255
Red-billed Teal	350	Little Grebe	177
Ruff	300	Sacred Ibis	170
Southern Pochard	294	Little Stint	167
Egyptian Goose	281	Wood Sandpiper	156

Also of note were 10 Black-necked Grebes at Tswaiing Pans and a total of 70 Maccoa Duck, 53 of these at Mahalapye S.P., 13 at Moshupa Dam, three at Jwaneng S.P. and a single at Ramotswa S.P. After a period of very low counts, numbers of birds at Jwaneng S.P. seem to have recovered.

Visits to five pans (Motlopi, Kgajane, Thipe, Dibeti and Dihudi) in the Mmathethe/ Good Hope area by CAB on 25 Feb and 3 March were very rewarding with Black-necked Grebes (20 birds), Dwarf Bitterns (2), Yellow-billed Stork (20) Maccoa Ducks (12) and breeding Whiskered Terns (65) among the 41 species recorded.

### **Okavango Delta**

On the Jao Flats there was good diversity but low numbers of most species. For example, there were just two Pink-backed Pelicans and three Slaty Egrets. Higher counts were made of two species - Wattled Cranes (108 birds) and Blacksmith Lapwings (196).

### **North-east Botswana**

Summer counts are invariably lower than winter counts on the Chobe River as the floodplains are drying during July and birds concentrate there.

**Table 6.** The Top 12 species (highest combined counts at all sites) in north-east Botswana in January 2017.

Blacksmith Lapwing	1,050	Woolly-necked Stork	173
White-winged Tern	789	Ruff	167
Collared Pratincole	632	Wood Sandpiper	115
Cattle Egret	601	African Reed Cormorant	99
African Jacana	403	Red-billed Teal	97
Egyptian Goose	356	Comb Duck	80

Other species of note included two African Crakes, eight Lesser Moorhens, two Greater Painted-snipe and 38 Black-winged Pratincoles.

### **July 2017 dry season waterbird counts**

**Table 7.** Counts in Botswana in July 2017 (Total number of waterbirds counted with number of species) N.C. = no count

	No. Birds	No. Species		No. Birds	No. Species
<b>South-east Botswana</b>	<b>4,226</b>	<b>45</b>	Sojwe Pan	734	16
Bathoen Dam	11	5	Shadishadi Pan	174	12
Bokaa Dam	717	34	Thagale Dam	436	25
Broadhurst S.P/ Gaborone GR					
Gaborone Dam	N.C.		<b>Eastern Botswana</b>	<b>5,254</b>	<b>28</b>
Gamoleele Dam	258	17	Rysana Pan	1456	23
Jwaneng S.P.	107	14	Mmea Pan	3798	3
Lobatse S.P.	422	29	<b>Okavango Delta</b>		
Kgoro Pan	160	15	Jao Flats	307	40
Mahalapye S.P.			<b>North-east Botswana</b>	<b>13,308</b>	<b>51</b>
Mogobane Dam	323	19	Savuti Channel	0	0
Moshupa Dam	157	19	Savuti Marsh	7	0
Mmabe Pan	600+	19	Linyanti River	1,290	28
Ngotwane Dam			Lake Liambezi	648	31
Phakalane S.P.			Chobe N.P. pans	21	4
Ramotswa S.P.	354	12	Chobe River	11,342	42



### South-east Botswana

Counts were generally lower than in January 2016. Highlights were 75 Black-necked Grebes at Shadi Shadi Pan and one to three Great Crested Grebes at five sites. There was a total of 52 Maccoa Duck – 22 at Moshupa Dam, 10 at Sojwe Pan, 11 at Gamoleele Dam, six at Jwaneng Sewage Ponds and three (females) at Lobatse S.P.

Mmabe Pan had over 600 birds, mainly Little Grebes and Red-knobbed Coots and 17 other species but many more birds were present than seen.

Other highlights included 75 Black-necked Grebes at Shadishadi Pan, a South African Shelduck and 10 Maccoa Duck at Sojwe Pan. Yellow-billed Storks are not common in the south-east of the country so of note was a total of five – three at Bokaa Dam and two at Thagale Dam.

Table 8. The Top 12 species (highest combined counts at all sites) in south-east Botswana in July 2017

Red-knobbed Coot	1,012	White-faced Duck	176
Egyptian Goose	517	Cape Teal	168
Red-billed Teal	416	Southern Pochard	123
Little Grebe	364	Black-winged Stilt	88
African Spurwing	319	Cattle Egret	84
Blacksmith Lapwing	202	Black-necked Grebe	75

### Eastern Botswana

Visits by CAB to Rysana and Mmea Pans provided good data for these important sites that have not been counted for several years. At Mmea Pan there were 40 Black-necked Grebes, more than 1,500 Greater Flamingo and 900 Lesser Flamingos, a single Maccoa Duck and 900 Red-knobbed Coots. At Rysana Pan there were a single Black-necked Grebe, 562 Greater and 94 Lesser Flamingos and 59 Chestnut-banded Plovers.

### Okavango Delta

The only site for which data were available was the Jao Flats. Of note there were 29 Slaty Egrets, 17 Wattled Cranes and 36 Long-toed Lapwings. Four Wattled Lapwings, three Greater Painted-snipe, five African Snipe and three Curlews added interest to this count.

### North-east Botswana

Table 9. The Top 12 species in north-eastern Botswana, mainly along the Chobe River, in July 2017.

White-faced Duck	3,040	Little Egret	609
African Reed Cormorant	1,509	Blacksmith Lapwing	538
Egyptian Goose	1,082	African Jacana	413
African Spurwing (goose)	1,014	Great Egret	372
Glossy Ibis	803	White Pelican	320
Whiskered Tern	716	Red-billed Teal	310

Of note too were 309 Black-winged Stilts and 305 African Spoonbills in the north-east and 162 Grey Herons, 120 Black Herons, 180 Yellow-billed Storks, 166 African Openbills, 240 Grey-headed Gulls and 24 African Skimmers along the Chobe River. Savuti Channel and Marsh were dry as too were many pans in Chobe N.P. The Linyanti River proved to be quite productive though as too Lake Liambezi on the national border. In the Linyanti 826 White-faced Duck were counted, nine Wattled Plovers and 41 Long-toed Lapwings, almost as many as Blacksmith Lapwings (45) there. There were 10 species of heron and egret, including three Slaty Egrets, at Lake Liambezi.

### Coucals, kingfishers and wagtails

Although the information above refers to larger waterbirds such as herons, egrets, storks, ibises, ducks, waders, terns and wetland raptors, most observers also note the numbers they see of coucals and kingfishers and of wagtails and other passerines over the wetlands.

The table below gives the numbers seen of some of these other wetland birds.

It should be noted that not a single Giant or Malachite Kingfisher was observed in south-east Botswana in any of the three count periods and nor were any Yellow Wagtails seen at the south-east sites.

The Jao Flats had small numbers of Pied Kingfishers (max 22) and in January 2017 two Malachite Kingfishers. All three species of wagtail were seen, albeit very small numbers, as well as a Rosy-throated Longclaw in July 2017.

In north-east Botswana Coppery-tailed and White-browed Coucals were regular and there were good counts of Pied Kingfishers (max. 115 in July 2017). No Giant Kingfishers were evident though and only two Malachite Kingfishers, during the January 2017 count.

Table 10. Counts of coucals, kingfishers and wagtails

Species	Jul 16	Jan 17	Jul 17
<b>South-east Botswana</b>			
Burchell's Coucal			1
Pied Kingfisher	4	2	1
Cape Wagtail	44	6	8
African Pied Wagtail	3	2	4
<b>Jao Flats</b>			
Pied Kingfisher		10	22
Malachite Kingfisher		2	
Cape Wagtail		2	
Yellow Wagtail			4
African Pied Wagtail		1	2
Rosy-throated Longclaw			1
<b>North-east Botswana</b>			
Coppery-tailed Coucal	1	5	8
White-browed Coucal	3	3	1
Pied Kingfisher	83	37	115
Malachite Kingfisher	5	1	12
Cape Wagtail	7	12	4
Yellow Wagtail	5		
African Pied Wagtail		7	4
Rosy-throated Longclaw	3		1

### New Volunteers

I am most grateful to the few faithful volunteers who did do the counts in the south-east of the country – Chris Brewster (CAB), Daphne Goldsworthy (DG), Mike Goldsworthy (MGG), Harold Hester (HH) and Peter D'Arcy (PD'A). Some important sites as Phakalane S.P. and Gaborone and Ngotwane Dams were not however, regularly counted.

In north-east Botswana I am very grateful too to Gavin and Marjorie Blair (GB, MB) for their huge efforts and commitment in the Chobe area where they count pans in the park and stretches of the Chobe and Linyanti Rivers. Martin Kay (MK) and Antony Mulligan (AM) also counted the Jao & Kwetsani Flats in January and July 2017. This part of the Okavango is excellent for Wattled Cranes.

We need counters for the sites mentioned above that are not covered in the south-east and for Nata Delta, Shashe Dam and the Makgadikgadi Pans. The only sites covered in the east were Mmea and Rysana Pans by Chris Brewster in July 2017. Many formerly regularly covered sites in the Okavango system also need new enthusiastic volunteers to count them twice a year. CAN YOU HELP?

*Stephanie Tyler* – Co-ordinator of waterbird counts in Botswana for Wetlands International and BirdLife Botswana. Email [steph\\_tyler2001@hotmail.com](mailto:steph_tyler2001@hotmail.com)



Malachite Kingfisher  
*Photo: Richard Randall*

## Botswana Bird List: Category A Rarities

The Category A rarities list comprises species that have been recorded ten or less times in recent years. All accepted records on the Category A rarities lists have been substantiated by a description or a photograph.

The last Category A rarities list was published in 2009 (Brewster, C.A. *Babbler* 52: 49-52). This list updates that list. Since 2009 a number of species have been added to the list as they were recorded in Botswana for the first time. Currently 598 species have been recorded in Botswana. Since 2009 a number of species have been removed from the Category A list to the Category B rarities list because ten or more records have been accepted by the Records Subcommittee.

On the list below, for species where it is noted 'except for Kasane area' (because the species is well-known from this area), a description or photograph is only required for records of birds outside of that area. Records of these species from the Kasane area can be summarised under Category B sightings.

Column 3: A = <3 substantiated records, B = 3-6 records, C = 7-10 records.

Species	Latin name	No. records / remarks
Crested Guineafowl	<i>Guttera pucherani</i>	A
Northern Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>	1 specimen
Garganey	<i>Anas querquedula</i>	B
Green-backed Honeybird	<i>Prodotiscus zambesiae</i>	B
Olive Woodpecker	<i>Dendropicos griseocephalus</i>	A
Crowned Hornbill	<i>Tockus alboterminatus</i>	A
Half-collared Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo semitorquate</i>	Except for Kasane area
Madagascar Bee-eater	<i>Merops superciliosus</i>	B
Grey-headed Parrot	<i>Poicephalus suahelicus</i>	C
Rosy-faced Lovebird	<i>Agapornis roseicollis</i>	A
Böhm's Spinetail	<i>Neafrapus boehmi</i>	B
Bradfield's Swift	<i>Apus bradfieldi</i>	A
Schalow's Turaco	<i>Tauraco schalowi</i>	Except for Kasane area
Ross's Turaco	<i>Musophaga rossae</i>	A
Purple-crested Turaco	<i>Musophaga porphyreolopha</i>	A
African Grass Owl	<i>Tyto capensis</i>	B
European Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>	B
European Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>	B
Ludwig's Bustard	<i>Neotis ludwigii</i>	B

White-bellied Korhaan	<i>Eupodotis senegalensis</i>	A
Blue Crane	<i>Anthropoides paradisea</i>	C
Buff-spotted Flufftail	<i>Sarothrura elegans</i>	A
Corn Crake	<i>Crex crex</i>	C
Baillon's Crake	<i>Porzana pusilla</i>	B
Great Snipe	<i>Gallinago media</i>	C
Bar-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>	B
Spotted Redshank	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>	B
Greater Yellowlegs	<i>Tringa melanoleuca</i>	A
Lesser Yellowlegs	<i>Tringa flavipes</i>	A
Red Knot	<i>Calidris canutus</i>	A
Temminck's Stint	<i>Calidris temminckii</i>	A
Red-necked Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>	A
Red Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus fulicaria</i>	B
Greater Sand Plover	<i>Charadrius leshenaultii</i>	A
Spur-winged Lapwing	<i>Vanellus spinosus</i>	A
Burchell's Courser	<i>Cursorius rufus</i>	B
Rock Pratincole	<i>Glaereola nuchalis</i>	Except for Kasane area
Long-tailed Jaeger	<i>Stercorarius longicaudus</i>	A
Common Black-headed Gull	<i>Larus ridibundus</i>	B
Gull-billed Tern	<i>Sterna nilotica</i>	A
Palm-nut Vulture	<i>Gypohierax angolensis</i>	A (one old record)
Egyptian Vulture	<i>Neophron percnopterus</i>	B
Black Harrier	<i>Circus maurus</i>	B
African Goshawk	<i>Accipter tachiro</i>	Except for Kasane area
Long-legged Buzzard	<i>Buteo rufinus</i>	A
Augur Buzzard	<i>Buteo augur</i>	B
Red-necked Buzzard	<i>Buteo auguralis</i>	A
African Crowned Eagle	<i>Stephanoaetus coronatus</i>	A
Sooty Falcon	<i>Falco concolor</i>	A
Eurasian Bittern	<i>Botaurus stellaris</i>	B
Greater Frigatebird	<i>Fregata minor</i>	A
African Pitta	<i>Pitta angolensis</i>	A
African Broadbill	<i>Smithornis capensis</i>	A
Cape Batis	<i>Batis capensis</i>	A
White-necked Raven	<i>Corvus albicollis</i>	A
Souza's Shrike	<i>Lanius souzae</i>	A
Rufous-bellied Tit	<i>Parus rufiventris</i>	A

Angola Swallow	<i>Hirundo angolensis</i>	A
Black Saw-wing	<i>Psalidoprocne pristoptera</i>	B
Eastern Nicator	<i>Nicator gularis</i>	A
Basra Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus griseldis</i>	A
Dark-capped Yellow Warbler	<i>Chloropeta natalensis</i>	A
Orange River White-eye	<i>Zosterops pallidus</i>	A
Levaillant's Cisticola	<i>Cisticola tinniens</i>	B
Croaking Cisticola	<i>Cisticola natalensis</i>	B
Cloud Cisticola	<i>Cisticola textrix</i>	A
Pale-crowned Cisticola	<i>Cisticola cinnamomeus</i>	A
Melodious Lark	<i>Mirafraga cheniana</i>	B
Black-eared Sparrow-lark	<i>Eremopterix verticallis</i>	A
Spotted Creeper	<i>Salpornis salvadori</i>	A
Miombo Rock-Thrush	<i>Monticola angolensis</i>	Except for Kasane area
Cape Robin-chat	<i>Cossypha caffra</i>	B
Red-capped Robin-chat	<i>Cossypha natalensis</i>	A
Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>	A
Mountain Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe monticola</i>	B
Isabelline Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe isabellina</i>	A
Pied Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe pieschlanka</i>	A
Sickle-winged Chat	<i>Cercomela sinuate</i>	A
Pale-winged Starling	<i>Onychognathus nabouroup</i>	A
Miombo Blue-eared Starling	<i>Lamprotornis elisabeth</i>	B
Rose-coloured Starling	<i>Sturnus roseus</i>	A
Copper Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris cuprea</i>	Except for Kasane area
Shelley's Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris shelleyi</i>	A
Red-headed Quelea	<i>Quelea erythrops</i>	Except for Kasane area
Red-collared Widowbird	<i>Euplectes ardens</i>	A
Locustfinch	<i>Ortygospiza locustella</i>	A
Magpie Mannikin	<i>Lonchura fringilloides</i>	B
Northern Grey-headed Sparrow	<i>Passer griseus</i>	Except for Kasane area
Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	B
Mountain Wagtail	<i>Motacilla clara</i>	B
Mountain Pipit	<i>Anthus hoeschi</i>	C
Wood Pipit	<i>Anthus nyassae</i>	B
Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>	C
Black-headed Canary	<i>Alario alario</i>	A
Black-eared Seed-eater	<i>Serinus mennelli</i>	B
Cape Bunting	<i>Emberiza capensis</i>	A

## Botswana Bird List: Category B Rarities

The Category B rarities list comprises species which, though uncommon, have more than ten records and for which BirdLife Botswana wishes to receive more records in order to learn about their status. All records of species on the Category B rarities list are published in the *Babbler*.

Some of the species on the Category B rarities list, such as Wattled Crane *Bugeranus carunculatus*, Black-winged Pratincole *Glareola nordmanni* and the vultures, are vulnerable or endangered, either worldwide or in Southern Africa. A few of the species on the list are either localised residents or are ones that undertake a lot of movements. The majority of the species on the list, however, occur sparsely over much of the country, often in numbers that vary greatly from year to year.

The last Category B rarities list was published in 2009 (Brewster, C. A. *Babbler* 52: 53-56). The list that follows updates that one. In addition to the species that have been moved from Category A to Category B, a number of other species have been added to the list, namely Southern Ground-Hornbill *Bucorvus leadbeateri*, Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*, White-backed Vulture *Gyps africanus*, Secretarybird *Saggittarius serpentarius* and Cape Longclaw *Macronyx capensis*. With the exception of Cape Longclaw, these species have been added to the list due to their conservation status; they are regarded by BirdLife International as being either vulnerable or endangered. Cape Longclaw has been added to the list as there have been very few recent records of this species in recent years.

A number of species have been removed from the Category B rarities list since 2009. The species that have been removed from the list are Fulvous Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna bicolor*, White-backed Duck *Thalassornis leuconotos*, Grey-headed Kingfisher *Halcyon leucocephala*, Swamp Nightjar *Caprimulgus natalensis*, Allen's Gallinule *Porphyrio alleni*, Black Heron *Egretta ardesiaca*, Little Bittern *Ixobrychus minutus*, Saddle-billed Stork *Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis*, Olive-tree Warbler *Hippolais olivetorum* and Village Weaver *Ploceus cucullatus*. All of these species have found to be common or frequent in the north of Botswana. Some of these species have also been regularly recorded in the east or southeast of the country.

BirdLife Botswana wishes to receive all records of species on the category B list. It is important that when records are submitted that details of numbers seen, as well as location and date(s) should be included.



Records will be accredited in the report in the *Babbler* with the observers' names. For species where it is noted 'except for Kasane area' records are not required from there as the species are well known from that area.

### Category B Rarities List

Species	Latin name	Remarks
Common Quail	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>	
Maccoa Duck	<i>Oxyura maccoa</i>	
African Black Duck	<i>Anas sparsa</i>	
Brown-backed Honeybird	<i>Prodotiscus regulus</i>	
Southern Ground-Hornbill	<i>Bucorvus leadbeateri</i>	
Narina Trogon	<i>Apaloderma narina</i>	
European Roller	<i>Coracias garrulous</i>	
Racket-tailed Roller	<i>Coracias spatulata</i>	Except for Kasane area
African Pygmy Kingfisher	<i>Ispidina picta</i>	
Thick-billed Cuckoo	<i>Pachycoccyx audeberti</i>	
Common Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>	
African Emerald Cuckoo	<i>Chrysococcyx cupreus</i>	
Black Coucal	<i>Centropus grillii</i>	
Alpine Swift	<i>Tachymarptis melba</i>	
African Black Swift	<i>Apus barbatus</i>	
Horus Swift	<i>Apus horus</i>	
Pennant-winged Nightjar	<i>Macrodipteryx vexillarius</i>	
Denham's Bustard	<i>Neotis denhami</i>	
Kori Bustard	<i>Ardeotis kori</i>	
Grey Crowned Crane	<i>Balearica regulorum</i>	
Wattled Crane	<i>Grus carunculatus</i>	
African Finfoot	<i>Podica senegalensis</i>	
Red-chested Flufftail	<i>Sarothrura rufa</i>	
African Rail	<i>Rallus caerulescens</i>	
African Crane	<i>Creccopsis egregia</i>	
Spotted Crane	<i>Porzana porzana</i>	
Striped Crane	<i>Aenigmatolimnas marginalis</i>	
Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>	
Common Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	
Eurasian Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>	
Common Redshank	<i>Tringa tetanus</i>	
Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>	
Terek Sandpiper	<i>Xenus cinereus</i>	
Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>	
Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>	
Pectoral Sandpiper	<i>Calidris melanotos</i>	

Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>	
Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	
Chestnut-banded Plover	<i>Charadrius pallidus</i>	
White-fronted Plover	<i>Charadrius marginatus</i>	
White-crowned Lapwing	<i>Vanellus albiceps</i>	
Three-banded Courser	<i>Rhinoptilus cinctus</i>	
Black-winged Pratincole	<i>Glareola nordmanni</i>	
African Skimmer	<i>Rhynchops flavirostris</i>	
Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>	
Caspian Tern	<i>Sterna caspia</i>	
Western Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	
African Cuckoo Hawk	<i>Aviceda cuculoides</i>	
European Honey Buzzard	<i>Pernis apivorus</i>	
Bat Hawk	<i>Macheiramphus alcinus</i>	
Hooded Vulture	<i>Necrosyrtes monachus</i>	
White-backed Vulture	<i>Gyps africanus</i>	
Cape Vulture	<i>Gyps coprotheres</i>	
Lappet-faced Vulture	<i>Torgos tracheliotus</i>	
White-headed Vulture	<i>Trigonoceps occipitalis</i>	
Bateleur	<i>Terathopius ecaudatus</i>	
Eurasian Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	
African Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus ranivorus</i>	
Pallid Harrier	<i>Circus macrourus</i>	
Lizard Buzzard	<i>Kaupifalco monogrammicus</i>	Except for Kasane area
Black Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipter melanoleucus</i>	
Jackal Buzzard	<i>Buteo rufofuscus</i>	
Steppe Eagle	<i>Aquila nipalensis</i>	
Lesser Spotted Eagle	<i>Aquila pomarina</i>	
Ayre's Hawk Eagle	<i>Aquila ayresii</i>	
Booted Eagle	<i>Aquila pennatus</i>	
Martial Eagle	<i>Polemaetus bellicosus</i>	
Long-crested Eagle	<i>Lophaetus occipitalis</i>	
Secretarybird	<i>Sagittarius serpentarius</i>	
Lesser Kestrel	<i>Falco naumanni</i>	
Red-footed Falcon	<i>Falco vespertinus</i>	
Amur Falcon	<i>Falco amurensis</i>	
Eurasian Hobby	<i>Falco Subbuteo</i>	
African Hobby	<i>Falco curvierii</i>	
Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	

Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>	
Slaty Egret	<i>Egretta vinaceigula</i>	
Yellow-billed Egret	<i>Egretta intermedia</i>	
White-backed Night Heron	<i>Gorsachius leuconotus</i>	
Lesser Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus minor</i>	
Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>	
Woolly-necked Stork	<i>Ciconia episcopus</i>	
Bokmakerie	<i>Telephorus zeylonus</i>	
Brown-throated Martin	<i>Riparia paludicola</i>	
Pearl-breasted Swallow	<i>Hirundo dimidiata</i>	
Mosque Swallow	<i>Hirundo senegalensis</i>	
South African Cliff Swallow	<i>Hirundo spilodera</i>	
Fairy Flycatcher	<i>Stenostira scita</i>	
River Warbler	<i>Locustella fluviatillis</i>	
Eurasian Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>	
Garden Warbler	<i>Sylvia borin</i>	
Stark's Lark	<i>Eremalauda starki</i>	
Thrush Nightingale	<i>Luscinia luscinia</i>	
Collared Palm Thrush	<i>Cichladusa arquata</i>	Except for Kasane area
Bearded Scrub Robin	<i>Cerchotrichas quadrivirgata</i>	Except for Kasane area
Sharp-tailed Starling	<i>Lamprotornis acuticaudus</i>	
Dusky Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris fusca</i>	
Purple-banded Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris bifasciatus</i>	Except for Kasane area
Chestnut Weaver	<i>Ploceus rufiginosus</i>	
Orange-breasted Waxbill	<i>Amandava subflava</i>	
Orange-winged Pytilia	<i>Pytilia afra</i>	
Broad-tailed Paradise Whydah	<i>Vidua obtuse</i>	
Cuckoo Finch	<i>Anomalospiza imberbis</i>	
Cape Longclaw	<i>Macronyx capensis</i>	
Striped Pipit	<i>Anthus lineiventris</i>	
Long-billed Pipit	<i>Anthus similes</i>	
Bushveld Pipit	<i>Anthus caffer</i>	
Streaky-headed Seedeater	<i>Serinus gularis</i>	

**Chris A. Brewster, Records Subcommittee, BirdLife Botswana**

## Report from the Records Subcommittee: Category A Records

The following records were assessed by Chris A. Brewster, Andrew Hester, Richard D. Randall and Stephanie J. Tyler. Records were assessed on the basis of majority vote. Observers did not vote on their own records.

Species	Square	Date	Comments
Ross's Turaco <i>Musophaga rossae</i>	1823B3	12.8.17 – 20.8.17	One seen and photographed near King's Pool Camp, Linyanti (T. Phala). <b>Second accepted sight record for Botswana.</b>
European Turtle Dove <i>Streptopelia turtur</i>	1923C3	14.5.17	One seen and photographed 37 km northwest of Maun beside Kwapa River (J. van der Merwe). <b>Third accepted record for Botswana.</b>
Red Phalarope <i>Phalaropus fulicaria</i>	2023C4	5.3.17	One seen and photographed at Dinaka Safari Lodge, Hainaveld (F. Steenhuisen). <b>Fifth accepted record for Botswana.</b>
Sharp-tailed Starling <i>Lamprotornis acuticaudus</i>	1822B1	16.7.16	Circa 20 seen flying overhead from the Caprivi into Botswana (C. A. Brewster).
Purple-banded Sunbird <i>Cinnyris bifasciatus</i>	1821B4	30.10.16	One seen near Shakawe (N. Perrins).



European Turtle Dove  
*Photo: Richard Randall*

**Record not accepted**

Sooty Falcon *Falco concolor* near Ghanzi on 11 March 2017.

The species below have been removed from the Category A list and added to the Category B list because a total of 10 or more records have been accepted by the Records Subcommittee:

Collared Palm Thrush *Cichladusa arquata*  
Bearded Scrub Robin *Cercotrichas quadrivirgata*  
Sharp-tailed Starling *Lamprotornis acuticaudus*  
Purple-banded Sunbird *Cinnyris bifasciatus*

**Chris A. Brewster, Records Subcommittee, BirdLife Botswana**



Orange-winged Pytilia  
*Photo: Ian White*

## Summary of Category B Records

Compiled by  
**Chris A. Brewster & Stephanie J. Tyler**

The records refer to 2017 unless specifically noted for 2016.

CKGR = Central Kalahari Game Reserve, KTP = Kalagadi Transfrontier Park, G.R. = Game Reserve, N.P. = National Park, S.P. = Sewage Ponds, F.R. = Forest Reserve

### **White-backed Duck *Thassalornis leuconotus***

One at was at Mahalapye S.P. on 16 Aug 2016 (PD'A) and six were seen at Gamoleele Dam on 13 Jan (MGG, DG, HH). Two were at Digwete Pan near Goodhope on 3 Mar (CAB).

### **Fulvous Duck *Dendrocygna bicolor***

Two were along the Chobe River within the park on 30 Jan (GB, MB). One was at Kgoro Pan on 6 Feb (CAB); ten at Gaborone G.R. on 10 Mar (IW), four at Lake Ngami on 16 Mar and seven at Rysana Pan on 17 Jul (CAB).

### **African Black Duck *Anas sparsa***

One was seen on 2 Jan at Bathoen Dam, Kanye (MGG, DG, HH).

### **Maccoa Duck *Oxyura maccoa***

In 2016 there were 37 – 19 males and 18 females – at Mahalapye S.P. on 16 Aug (PD'A) and 24 at Sojwe and 27 at Shadi Shadi on 30 Aug (CAB).

In 2017 three were seen at Jwaneng S.P. on 2 Jan and 13 at Moshupa Dam on 13 Jan (MGG, DG, HH). On 9 Jan there was a male at a dam near Pelotshetlha and on 17 Jan a female at Ramotswa Dam (CAB). Mahalapye S.P. as usual provided the largest numbers with 53 counted in late Jan by PD'A – 26 females and 27 males. On 3 Mar two males and a female were at Dihudi Pan, near Mmathethe; one was there on 24 Mar. Seven males and two females at Digwete Pan near Goodhope on 3 Mar (CAB).

There were 10 at Sojwe Pan on 16 Jul, including a female + three young, and a single female at Mmea Pan on 18 Jul (CAB). Nearer Gaborone 11 were at Gamoleele Dam on 22 Jul and 22 at Moshupa Dam and six at Jwaneng S.P. on 27 Jul (MGG, DG, HH) and on 31 Jul three at Lobatse S.P. (CAB).

**Southern Ground-Hornbill *Bucorvus leadbeateri***

An adult was near Sherwood in 2228D3 on 15 Oct (PV). Two were seen in the Linyanti area on 17 Dec at S18.3106 E23.8950, three on the same day at S18.2814 E23.9223 and one at S18.2964 E23.9068, followed by two in the Savute area on 19 Dec at S18.6176 E24.9738 (1824B1), one on 22 Dec at S18.3044 E24.2616 with three that day nearer Kasane at S17.8900 E24.8346. Four were seen between Kasane and Ngoma in 1724D4 on 31 Jan, and three were seen at Savute on 2 Feb and 6 Feb (GB, MB). Four were seen on the Jao and Kwetsani Flats on 10 Jan (AM) and an adult and juvenile near Mmashoro in 2126D3 on 11 Mar (CAB).

**European Roller *Coracias garrulous***

Singles were near Toteng in 2023A3 on 11 Mar (UF), at Hildavale on 17 Feb and at Motlopi Pan on 25 Feb (CAB). In the Savute area, six were seen on 4 Feb, six were seen on 5 Feb and one on 6 Feb (GB, MB). Singles noted north of Kuke in 2022B4 on 13 Feb (UF) and in 2022B3 on 5 Mar (AL). On 12 Mar, along the Mokubilo to Orapa road on 12 Mar, there were two in 2125B3 and one in 2126A3 and there was also one at Letlhakane on the same date (CAB).

**African Pygmy-Kingfisher *Ispidina picta***

One was at Shashe Farm (2229A2) on 19 Nov (EM).

**Grey-headed Kingfisher *Halcyon leucocephala***

One was at Shakawe on 30 Oct (NiP). One was seen in the Linyanti area at S18.2964 E23.9067 on 17 Dec. Three singles were noted in south of Ngoma in 1824B1 on 1 Feb and three singles were seen in the Linyanti area in 1823B4 on 2 Feb (GB, MB). There were several sightings of single birds near Duma Tau camp, Linyanti (1823D1), in late Feb (LH) and singles also on 3 Mar near Zanzibar, on 6 Mar in eastern Tuli Block at S22.376 E28.898 (NiP), near Ghanzi in 2121C2 on 11 Mar (AL) and near Maun in 1923D3 on 15 Mar, two were near Maun on 17 Mar and singles at Xakanaxa on 18 Mar (JR) and at Shashe Farm (2229A1) on 1 April (EM).

**African Emerald Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx cupreus***

One was at Linyanti in 1823B4 on 17 Dec (GB, MB) and one was calling at Island Safari Lodge, Maun on 15 Mar (JR).

**Black Coucal *Centropus grillii***

Pair along Boro floodplain in 1923C1 on 12 Mar (PC).

**Alpine Swift *Tachymarptis melba***

One at Mannyelanong G.R., Otse on 24 Mar (CAB).

**African Black Swift *Apus barbatus***

Ca.10 were at Mannyelanong G.R., Otse on 24 Mar (CAB).

**Horus Swift *Apus horus***

Three along Motloutse River in 2228BB2 on 24 Jul 2016, five at nesting colony in Mashatu GR in 2229A1 on 21 Jul 2016 and seven or eight there on 29 June 2017 (DM).

**Swamp Nightjar *Caprimulgus natalensis***

Regularly heard calling at Bora Island (1922B4), early Sept 2016 (GG). One was reported from Savute on 2 Feb (GB, MB).

**Denham's (Stanley's) Bustard *Neotis denhami***

One was seen in Chobe N.P. on 23 Dec at S17.8080 E24.9551 (GB, MB).

**Kori Bustard *Ardeotis kori***

One was near Ghanzi in 2121D1 on 2 Nov (NiP) and one at Nata on 2 Nov (GB, MB). Ten were at Mpaathutlwa Pan, Mabuasehube on 6 Nov (IW). On 18 Dec two and a single displaying male were seen in Savute, Chobe N.P. and on 19 Dec five other single birds and a group of two in this general area with two singles, a group of two and another of three on 20 Dec, of three on 21 Dec. One was seen on 23 Dec in the floodplain near Kasane and one there also on 30 Jan. In the Savute area, six were seen on 2 Feb, singles were seen on 3 Feb and 4 Feb and four singles on 5 Feb- full coordinates available for each sighting (GB, MB). One to five were seen daily near Ghanzi in 2121C2 in early Mar (AL), one at Xhorodumo Pan on 14 Mar (CAB), one near Mababe in 1923B2 on 25 Mar (JR) and one flew overhead near Gathwane (2525A4) on 18 June (IW).

**Wattled Crane *Grus carunculatus***

Three were near Fourth Bridge, Moremi G.R. on 30 Jul 2016 (LHo). In early Sept 2016 50+ birds regularly seen at Bora Island (1922B4), six birds were seen at two other locations in 1922B4, and a total of nine birds at three different locations in 1923C1 (GG). A total of 108 were seen on the Jao & Kwetsani Flats on 10 Jan (AM). Other records were small groups of up to five near Mombo Camp, Moremi G.R. on 26 Feb (LH), a pair along the Boro floodplain in 1923C1 on 12 Mar (PC) and at Tale Pan on 17 Mar (CAB) and two adults and a juvenile along Khwai River in 1923C2 on 21 Mar (JR).

**Red-chested Flufftail *Sarothrura rufa***

Heard calling one morning, early Sept 2016, at Bora Island (1922B4) (GG).

**African Crane *Creccopsis egregia***

One was in the Savute area of Chobe N.P. on 20 Dec and another there on 21 Dec. One was in 1824B1 on 1 Feb and then three singles were seen in



Savute Marsh on 3 Feb (GB, MB). Four, walking along road, away from any water, south-west of Kuke in 2122A2 on 5 Mar (AL). Two adults and two chicks at Savute (1824C1) on 24 Mar (JR)

**Striped Crake *Aenigmatolimnas marginalis***

A bird was photographed at Boro Pans near Maun on 29/30 Mar (VWF).

**Spotted Crake *Porzana porzana***

One was at a weir on the Bonwapitse River at Dovedale in the Tuli Block on 24 Dec (AHa). One 3 km north of Rooiputs in Nossob Valley on 6 Jan (Rob Bowie per TH)

**African Rail *Rallus caerulescens***

One was in front of Thamalakane Lodge, Maun on 26 Mar 2014 (JR), one at Shakawe at the end of Oct 2016 (NiP) and one at Gaborone G.R. on 19 Dec (IW).

**Allen's Gallinule *Porphyrio alleni***

A juvenile was seen at Savute in Chobe N.P. on 21 Dec at S18.5477 E24.0799 (GB, MB). A non-breeding adult and an immature bird were seen on 24 Dec on a weir on the Bonwapitse River at Dovedale, Tuli Block (AHa). An adult and a juvenile were seen at Gaborone G.R. from 3 to 19 Mar (ED, IW), at least five along Boro floodplain in 1923C1 on 12 Mar (PC) and an adult male along Khwai River in 1923B2 on 21 Mar (JR).

**Curlew *Numenius arquatus***

One at Drotsky's Cabins, Shakawe on 10 Nov (JC) and another (or the same bird) on 8 Dec on the Okavango River near Shakawe (per TH)

**White-fronted Plover *Charadrius marginatus***

A pair was seen at the Motloutse / Limpopo confluence on 24 Jul 2016 (DM) and 33 at Xhorodumo Pan on 14 Mar (CAB).

**Grey Plover**

Two were on the Okavango River near Shakawe on 8 Dec (per TH) and two at Bokaa Dam on 18 Dec (ED).

**Sanderling**

One was seen at Shakawe on 31 Oct (NiP) and one in Makgadikgadi Pans on 29 Nov (per TH).

**Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus***

One was seen at Xaro Lodge near Shakawe on 25 Nov 2016 and another in the Makgadikgadi Pans on 29 Nov (per TH).

**Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula***

Four were noted along the Chobe River in the park on 30/31 Jan (GB, MB).

**Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres***

One was at Lake Ngami on 1 Nov (NiP), three at Bokaa Dam on 3 Nov (GB, MB) and singles by the Kasai channel along the Chobe River on 4 Nov (J. Wilson, per TH), on the Okavango River near Shakawe on 8 Dec (per TH) and at Third Bridge, Moremi G.R., on 2 June (LO).

**Three-banded Courser *Rhinoptilus cinctus***

One heard calling in Mashatu G.R. in 2228B2 on 19 Jul 2016 and, again, at the same location, on 26 and 30 June (DM) and also heard calling at Senyanti Camp, Lesoma Valley near Kasane on 28 Sept (EEk).

**Black-winged Pratincole *Glareola nordmanni***

There were ca.26 on 20 Dec on the floodplain at Savute and 38 at Marabou Pan in Savute in the N.P. on 3 Feb (GB, MB). On 14 Mar ca. 1300 were at Xhorodumo Pan, 95 on Dautsa Flats in 2022C2 and ca.100 at Tale Pan on 17 Mar, ca. 300 at Mosarwanyane Pan on 18 Mar and 50 at Kalkfontein, outside of the species' expected range, on 19 Mar (CAB).

**African Skimmer *Rynchops flavirostris***

Small territorial groups were noted at two locations in 1922B4, early Sept 2016 (GG). A group of about 10 and a further two were seen on 15 Oct 2016 along the Chobe River at S17.83 E25.10 and then on 16 Oct small groups of six and four along the river in the same area and one bird at S17.82 E25.11; 40 were along the river in 1724D4 on 31 Jan (GB, MB).

During the waterbird count along the Chobe River on 29/30 Jul a total of 24 were seen in four locations – two, eleven, two and three (GB, MB).

**Caspian Tern *Sterna caspia***

Two were at Nata River mouth on 30 Sept 2016 (EEk), two at Nata on 21 June (SSuth) and one along the Chobe River on 29 Jul 2017 (GB, MB).

**Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus***

One immature bird was seen at Shakawe on 31 Oct (NiallP) Photo.

**Osprey *Pandion haliaetus***

Single birds were seen at Xakanaxa on 26 Mar 2014 (JR), at Shakawe on 30 Oct 2016 and at Lake Ngami on 1 Nov 2016 (NiP), about 5 km north of Two Rivers in Nossob Valley on 13 Dec (per TH) and at Vumbera on 24 Feb (LH).

**African Cuckoo Hawk *Aviceda cuculoides***

One was seen at Shakawe on 29 Oct (NiP).

**Bat Hawk *Macheiramphus alcinus***

A juvenile was in 1922D2 on 9 Sept 2016 (PS). Singles were at Shakawe on 30 Oct (NiP), in the Linyanti area in 1823C4 on 17 Dec (GB, MB) and at Mombo on 2 April (LH).

**Cape Griffon *Gyps coprotheres***

An adult was seen in Tuli Block at S22.574 E28.337 on 3 Mar (NiP) and one seen and photographed at buffalo carcass at Savute on 8 June (HK).

**Hooded Vulture *Necrosyrtes monachus***

One was along Khwai River in 1923B2 on 14 Jul 2016 (JS) and one there on 2 Aug 2016 (LHo). Three to four were south of Sibuyu F.R. in 1925B1 on 7 Aug 2016 (KC). One was at Bora Island (1922B4) in early Sept 2016 (GG), one in the Linyanti on 17 Dec at S18.2948 E23.9094 and another at S18.2785 E23.9248 and two near Kasane on 23 Dec at S17.8330 E25.0208, 11 at Savute on 4 Feb and one there on 6 Feb (GB, MB). Two were noted along Boro floodplain with White-backed Vultures in 1923C1 on 10 Mar (PC), ca.10 near Diospyros Pan, Savute (1824C1) on 24 Mar (JR) and ca.25 at buffalo carcass (lion kill) at Savute on 8 June (HK).

**White-headed Vulture *Aegypius occipitalis***

One was at Savute on 5 Aug 2016 (LHo), three south of Sibuyu F.R. in 1925B1 on 7 Aug 2016 (KC), singletons over Boro River in 1923C1 on 5 Sept 2016 (GG), at Mpaathutlwa Pan, Mabuasehube on 6 Nov (IW), at Mabuasehube on 10 Jan (AV) and at Savute on 4 Feb and 5 Feb (GB, MB). Three were at a buffalo carcass at Savute on 8 June (HK).

**Lappet-faced Vulture *Torgos tracheliotos***

No. seen	Date	Place	Comments	Observer
2	2 May 2016	Near Lerala	At cow carcass	AHa
4	14 Jul	Along Khwai River in 1923B2		JS
1	7 Aug	South of Sibuyu F.R in 1925B1		KC

2	30 Sept	North of Pandamatenga in 1825A4		Eek
2	14 Oct	Along Chobe River		GB, MB
1	15 Oct	Along Chobe River		GB, MB
2	16 Oct	Along Chobe River		GB, MB
10	6 Nov	Mpaathutlwe Pan, Mabuasehube		IW
1	3 Nov	Near Shoshong	At roadkill donkey	GB, MB
5	3 Nov	North of Dibete	At carcass by railway line	GB, MB
1	17 Dec	Linyanti in 1823B4		GB, MB
1	18 Dec	Linyanti in 1823B4		GB, MB
1	21 Dec	Savute		GB, MB
1	22 Dec	Between Savute and Ngoma in 1824A3		GB, MB
1	11 Dec	Dopotta in 2228B2		DK
4	13 Feb 2017	Between Kuke and Sehithwa in 2022B4		UF
1 ad	3 Mar	Tuli Block in 2228C2		NiP
1	3 Mar	Tuli Block in 2228B4	A sub-adult	NiP
1 ad	5 Mar	Tuli Block in 22284	Wing-tagged bird	NiP
1	10 Mar	Mashatu G.R.		SG
4	14 Mar	Xhorodumo Pan		CAB
2	14 Mar	E. boundary of Makgadikgadi Pans		CAB

2	23 Mar	Over Khwai River in 1923B2		JR
Ca.8	19 April	Along Trans – Kalahari highway in 2221B1	At donkey carcase	Arjen van Zwiten
5 - 6	3 June	Along Khwai River in 1923B2	At hyaena kill	HK
2	8 June	Savute	At buffalo carcase (lion kill)	HK
1	21 June	Nata Sanctuary		SSuth
1	24 June	Darnaway farm, Dovedale		BLB
3	19 Jul	Between Serowe and Palapye	With four White-backed Vultures	CAB

#### **Bateleur *Terathopius ecaudatus***

On 4 Sept 2016, one was seen north of Rakops in 2024C1 (GG) and on 12 Oct one was seen along the Trans-Kalahari Highway in 2221A2 (AC).

In the Kasane area, one was seen in 1724D4 on 14 Oct, one was in 1725C3 on 15 Oct, a female and an immature were in 1725C3 on 16 Oct, and a female and a male were in 1725C3 on 17 Oct (GB, MB).

In the Linyanti area (1823B4) two singles (an immature and a female) were seen on 17 Dec and three singles (two males and an immature) were seen on 18 Dec. In the Savute area, in 1824C1, three singles were seen on 18 Dec, two singles were seen on 19 Dec, a single, two (a male and an immature) and three (an adult and two immatures) were seen on 20 Dec and a single were seen on 21 Dec. On 22 Dec, between Savute and Ngoma, an immature was seen in 1824A3, two (a male and an immature) were seen in 1824A2 and a female was seen in 1824A2 (GB, MB).

In the Kasane area four singles were seen in 1725C3 on 30 Jan and a male was seen in 1724D3 on 31 Jan. On 1 Feb, singles were seen in 1824A2 and 1824A3 between Ngoma and Linyanti. On 2 Feb five singles were seen in the Linyanti area, in 1823B4. In the Savute area, in 1824C1, from 3 Feb to 5 Feb, there were ten sightings, mainly of single birds, though there were two sightings of groups of four birds and one sighting of two birds. South of Savute there were three sightings of single birds on 5 Feb, two of them in 1823D4 and one in 1823C3 (GB, MB).

Only one, a single bird in 2121C4, was seen during ten days observations in early Mar in the Ghanzi area (AL). An adult was seen near west gate to Orapa on 12 Mar and one at Khumaga, in Makgadikgadi Pans N.P. on 15 Mar (CAB).

#### **Pallid Harrier *Circus macrourus***

One was seen south-west of Kuke on 1 Nov (NiP) and an immature at Mpaathutlwa Pan, Mabuasehube on 6 Nov (IW). A male was noted on 19 Dec at Savute (1824C1) and another nearby with one the following day close to a male and a female Montagu's Harrier *C. pygargus* (GB, MB). Four were noted along the Chobe River within the park on 30/31 Jan (GB, MB). An adult male was at Pitsane on 17 Feb (CAB).

#### **Western Marsh Harrier**

One was seen north of Mahalapye on 6 Dec (MGG), singles along the Chobe River on 31 Jan and in Savute Marsh on 3 Feb (GB, MB) and a female in Jao Reserve in the Okavango Delta on 8 Feb (per TH).

#### **African Marsh Harrier**

One was on the Jao & Kwetsani Flats on 28 Feb (MK). In early August three were seen at Savute Marsh, two at Lake Liambezi between Katchikau and Kavimba and two on the Linyanti within the national park (GB, MB). Singles were seen on 17 Dec at three locations in the Chobe area, along the Linyanti River and at Savute on 2 Feb (GB, MB). One was over the Okavango River at Shakawe on 10 Jul (MC).

#### **Black Sparrowhawk *Accipiter melanoleucus***

One was seen at Ranaka on 3 Mar (CAB).

#### **Honey Buzzard *Pernis apivorus***

A satellite-tagged bird passed through Botswana over the Okavango Delta and down the east side of the CKGR on 13 Nov, heading south-east. This bird spent the non-breeding seasons of 2014/15 and 2015/16 in the Free State of South Africa. Singles were seen in Chobe N.P. on 1 Dec, at Maun on 30 Jan and 12 Mar (per TH) and at Francistown on 15 Mar (BW).

#### **Booted Eagle *Aquila pennata***

A pale morph bird was seen on 20 Dec in the Savute area and another bird on 22 Dec between Ngoma and Kasane in 1724D4. Singles were seen in 1724D4 on 31 Jan, near Parakurungu in 1824A2 on 1 Feb (GB, MB), at Gaborone CBD on 20 Jan (IW) and between Kuke and Sehithwa in 2022C2 on 14 Mar (AL).

**Lesser Spotted Eagle *Aquila pomarina***

At Savute in 1824C1 one was seen on 4 Feb, five there on 5 Feb and two on 6 Feb (GB, MB). One was seen near Sherwood on 3 Mar (IP).

**Ayre's Hawk-Eagle *Aquila ayresii***

One was seen in a Gaborone garden on 19 Jan (IW) and another at Sesung between Kanye and Jwaneng on 30 Jan (CAB).

**Martial Eagle *Polemaetus bellicosus***

Singles were at Bora Island (1922B4) in early Sept 2016 (GG), between Sekoma and Jwaneng in 2424B2 on 13 Oct (AC), at Nata on 21 Oct (NiP), at the pan in Khama Rhino Sanctuary on 1 Nov (IW, JD & ID), on 16 Dec in Chobe District in 1824A2 and an immature the following day at Linyanti in 1823B4, one on 19 Dec and one on 21 Dec at Savute both in at 1824B1 (GB, MB) – full co-ordinates available.

Other singles were reported from Bathoen Dam, Kanye on 2 Jan (MGG), between Ghanzi and Kuke in 21222 on 13 Feb (UF), at Mombo on 26 Feb (LH), between Maun and Sehithwa in 2023A3 on 5 Mar (AL), near Francistown in 2127C2 on 7 Mar (AHes) and from Mashatu G.R. in 2228B2 on 26 June (DM). Two immature birds were seen at Moreswe Pan, Khutse G.R. on 27 Aug (IW).

**Long-crested Eagle *Lophaetus occipitalis***

One was in the Linyanti area in 1823B4 on 17 Dec (GB, MB).

**Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus***

Immature at Moroekwe Farm, Otse, early April (MBing)

**Red-footed Falcon *Falco vespertinus***

One male noted at Mabuasehube on 13 Jan (AV) and eight northeast of Kalkfontein in 2220B2 on 19 Mar (CAB).

**Amur Falcon *Falco amurensis***

In the Savute area, one was seen on 18 Dec and a total of 33 there on 21 Dec; the species was also recorded near Ngoma on 22 Dec in 1824B1 and 1724D4 in Savute. Between Kasane and Ngoma one was seen on 30 Jan and five on 31 Jan; there was one near Ngoma in 1824B1 on 1 Feb. In the Savute three were seen on 3 Feb, 13 on 4 Feb and a total of 67 on 5 Feb (GB, MB). An adult male was at Elephant Sands Lodge, 1926C1, north of Nata, on 25 Mar (DS), four at Sita Pan on 10 Feb, an adult female northeast of Khumaga in 2024B3 on 15 Mar, an immature northeast of Kalkfontein in 2220B2 on 19 Mar (CAB) and several near Xakanaxa on 18 Mar (JR).

**Lesser Kestrel *Falco naumannii***

Two were at Broadhurst Ponds, Gaborone on 31 Oct (IW). In Chobe N.P., a count of 41 was made at Savute Marsh on 19 Dec, with some others nearby at two locations; on 20 Dec 19 were seen at Savute ; on 22 Dec several were near Ngoma in 1824B1 and also on 23 Dec between Ngoma and Kasane in 1724D4 . Two singles were seen between Kasane and Ngoma on 31 Jan and a single was also seen there on 6 Feb. Near Ngoma one was seen on 31 Jan and 12 were seen on 1 Feb. In the Savute area 21 were seen on 3 Feb (GB, MB).

One was at Sita Pan on 10 Feb, one at Ramatlabama on 17 Feb (CAB), an adult male near Zanzibar on 3 Mar (NiP) and one north of Malotwana S24.247 E26.233 on 5 Mar (BLB).

**European Hobby *Falco subuteo***

One was seen on 22 Dec at Savute in 1824A3 and another between Ngoma and Kasane in 1724D4; one was also in 1724D4 on 31 Jan (GB, MB). An adult was noted on 6 Mar in Tuli Block at S22.560 E28.365 (NiP), one north of Malotwana S24.247 E26.233 on 5 Mar (BLB) and one at Bosutswe (2126D3) on 11 Mar (CAB).

**Black Heron *Egretta ardesiaca***

Three were at Bokaa Dam on 11 Jan and one at Gaborone G.R. on 20 Jan (CAB), four near Ghanzi in 2121D2 on 14 Mar (AL) and a good count of 120 along the Chobe River on 29/30 Jul (GB, MB).

**Yellow-billed Egret *Egretta intermedia***

One was at Bokaa Dam on 3 Nov, 19 at Savute on 20 Dec and one there on 4 Feb (GB, MB). One was at Phakalane S.P. on 20 Jan, 14 at Kgoro Pan on 24 Jan, two at Pitsane on 17 Feb, singles near Ghanzi in 2121D2 on 14 Mar (AL) and west of Ghanzi in 2121D1 on 18 Mar, at Kalkfontein on 19 Mar, at Tholobe Pan, near Mmathethe on 22 Apr, at Mmabe Pan near Mochudi on 6 June and at Lobatse S.P. on 31 Jul (CAB).

**Slaty Egret *Egretta vinaceigula***

In early Sept 2016, single birds were seen along the Boro River at four locations in 1922B4 and also in 1923C4 (GG). One was noted in 1922D2 on 9 Sept (PS), three on the Jao & Kwetsani Flats on 10 Jan (AM), two and a single in the Chobe floodplain on 23 Dec and one on the Linyanti River on 2 Feb (GB, MB). Three sightings of single birds came from near Duma Tau camp, Linyanti (1823D1), 28 Feb (LH) and one, outside of expected range, south-west of Kuke in 2122A3 on 5 Mar (AL). One was at Xakanaxa on 18 Mar (JR).



**White-backed Night Heron *Gorsachius lenconotos***

One was seen at Shakawe on 29 Oct (NiP).

**Black-necked Grebe *Podiceps nigricollis***

Ten were seen at Tswaiing Pans on 30 Jan and 18 there on 12 April. 20 at Kgoro Pan on 6 Feb, including a pair starting to build a nest (CAB). After heavy rain in the Mmathethe/Good Hope area of SE Botswana in late Feb eight were at Motlopi Pan and one at Kgajane Pan on 25 Feb, four were at Dihudi Pan and seven at Digwete Pan on 3 Mar. A pair of adults with two tiny young and an adult with one young were at Dihudi Pan on 24 Mar. A pair was at Mmea Pan on 11 Mar (CAB). Ten were seen in Nata Sanctuary on 21 June (SSuth).

On 15 Jul there were ca. 75 at Shadi Shadi Pan, on 17 Jul one at Rysana Pan and on 18 Jul ca. 40 at Mmea Pan (CAB).

**Little Bittern *Ixobrychus minutus***

One was at Glen Valley, Gaborone, on 8 April (ED).

**Lesser Flamingo *Phoenicopterus minor***

Four were seen at Bokaa Dam on 2 Sept (BLB), one at Broadhurst Ponds on 20 Jan, one at Kgoro Pan on 6 Feb and five at Motlopi Pan near Mmathethe on 25 Feb (CAB). Some 94 were at Rysana Pan on 17 Jul and an estimated 900 at Mmea Pan on 18 Jul (CAB).

**Black Stork *Ciconia nigra***

One was in Mashatu G.R. (2229A1) on 21 Jul 2016 (DM), one at Khama Rhino Sanctuary on 25 Feb (FS) and six at Darnaway Farm, Dovedale on 23 June (BLB).

**Woolly-necked Stork *Ciconia microscelis* (formerly *episcopus*)**

One (and a Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*) was seen at Ghaghoo Mine in the CKGR on 17 Nov, out of their usual range (BillR). One was seen in the Savute area at S18.6869 E24.0860) on 20 Dec and five or six on the same day at S18.6796 E24.0727 and one at S18.5480 E24.0813 on 21 Dec (GB, MB). On 3 Feb there were 93 at Harvey's Pans and 80 at Peter's Pans in Savute, Chobe N.P. (GB, MB). Other records were ca. 20 in grassland near Xugana in 1923B2 on 10 Mar (PC), four at Tale Pan on 17 Mar, 11 at Mosarwanyane Pan (2022D1) on 18 Mar (CAB), several along Khwai River in 1923B2 on 21 Mar, at Kwando Pan (1824C1) and near Harvey's Pan, Savute (1824C1) on 24 Mar (JR).

**Saddle-billed Stork *Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis***

Two were seen along Motloutse River in 2228B2 on 24 Jul 2016 (DM), two at Nata on 30 Sept 2016 (EEK), a pair of adults, carrying nest material, in Mashatu G.R. on 10 Mar (SG). Birds were also recorded near Jack's

Camp, Makgadikgadi Pans (2025A3) on 23 Mar (LH). A pair was seen at Shashe Farm (2229A2) on 31 Mar (EM) and in Mashatu G.R. (2229A1) on 29 June (DM).

**Brown-throated Martin *Riparia paudicola***

Ca. 20 were near Ngarange (1822A3) on 7 Jul 2016 (JS), ca. four at Shashe Farm (222(A2) on 21 Jul 2016 (EM) and a flock of seven or eight birds at Bora Island (1922B4) in early Sept 2016 (GG).

In 2017 four were seen at Shakawe on 10 Jul (MC).

**Pearl-breasted Swallow *Hirundo dimidiata***

A pair was observed collecting mud at Mpaathutlwa Pan, Mubuasehube on 6 Nov (IW). This is notable as no breeding records are known for this species for Botswana. One was at Leshaloago Pan, Mabuasehube, 8 to 13 Jan (AV). One at Mmabe Pan, near Mochudi on 6 June and five there on 2 Jul (CAB)

**South African Cliff-Swallow *Hirundo spilodera***

About eight were seen at Polentswa, KTP on 25 Aug 2016 (SS). Ca.100 at Hildavale, where breeding, on 17 Feb and two breeding pairs at culvert near Mogojwagojwe (2525A4) on 24 Mar (CAB)

**Collared Palm Thrush *Cichladusa arquata***

A pair was in song at Nata Lodge, 30 Sept 2016 (EEk).

**Fairy Flycatcher *Stenostira scita***

One was seen at Kgonkwe Pan near Magoriapitse on 28 April (CAB).

**River Warbler *Locustella fluviatilis***

One at Island Safari Lodge, Maun on 52 Mar (per TH)

**Olive-tree Warbler *Hippolais olivetorum***

One was heard at Dovedale by a weir on the Bonwapitse River in the Tuli Block on 24 Dec (AHa).

In southeast Botswana the species was found to be widespread: two near Molwapobojang in 2525B1 on 8 Dec, one near Kgomokasitwa in 2525B1 on 14 Dec., one near Ntlhantle in 2425D3 on 30 Dec, three near Bokaa Dam on 10 Jan, three near Thagale Dam on 13 Jan, one at Ramotswa SP on 17 Jan, one at Phakalane SP on 20 Jan, five south of Molwapobojang in 2525B3 on 24 Jan, one at Tswaiing Pans on 30 Jan, two at Sita Pan on 10 Feb, one north of Malotwana in 2426A1 on 15 Feb, and one at Kgajane

Pan on 25 Feb.(CAB). One near Zanzibar on 3 Mar and one on 5 Mar in eastern Tuli Block at S22.254 E28.896 (NiP) and two at Mokubilo on 12 Mar (CAB).

**Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin***

Single birds at Crocodile Pools, Notwane from 12 to 15 Dec and at Phakalane S.P. on 20 Jan (CAB). One near Ngoma in 1724D4 on 31 Jan and one south of Savute in 1823D4 on 5 Feb (GB, MB).

**Thrush Nightingale *Luscinia luscinia***

One was noted at Savute in 1824C1 on 20 Dec (GB, MB), one from close to the confluence of the Bonwapitse River and the Limpopo, near Dovedale on 24 Dec (AHa) and two were seen, one being photographed, from 20 to 29 Jan at Glen Valley in Gaborone (CAB, IW). Singles were near Kasane on 30 Jan, near Ngoma on 31 Jan, and at different localities at Savute on 2 Feb, 4 Feb and 5 Feb (GB, MB).

**Dusky Sunbird *Cinnyris fuscus***

One near Ghanzi in 2121C1 on 11 Mar was outside of this sunbird's expected range (AL).

**Orange-breasted Waxbill *Sporaeginthus subflavus***

A pair was on the Taung River floodplain (2425D4) south of Boatle on 28 June (CAB).

**Bushveld Pipit *Anthus caffer***

Three were seen at Lobatse on 5 Mar and two on Lokgokgotho Hills, near Lekgolobotlo, (2425D3) on 5 Mar (CAB).

**Streaky-headed Seedeater *Crithagra gularis***

Singles were seen at Motsenekatse Hill near Molwapobojang (in 2525B1) on 8 Dec, at Baratani Hill, Otse on 19 Dec, at Potsane Dam (2425D3) on 2 Feb and at Lobatse on 5 Mar, and several by Kolobeng River, near Manyana, on 2 June (CAB).

*Compiled by Chris A Brewster and Stephanie J. Tyler*

## 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 2017 unless otherwise stated.

### **Orange River Francolin *Scleroptila levillantoides***

Two heard calling south of Thagale Dam on 13 Jan and two calling at Lobatse on 5 Mar (CAB).

### **South African Shelduck *Tadorna cana***

Eight were seen at Jwaneng S.P. on 2 Jan (MGG, DG, HH) and four at Motlopi Pan and two at Thihe Pan on 25 Feb. In July one was at Sojwe Pan on 16<sup>th</sup> (CAB), three at Gamoleele Dam on 22<sup>nd</sup>, four at Moshupa Dam on 27<sup>th</sup> (MGG, DG, HH), six at Bokaa Dam on 26<sup>th</sup>, two at Thagale Dam on 28<sup>th</sup>, two at Lobatse S.P. and four at Ramotswa S.P. on 31<sup>st</sup> (CAB).

### **Cape Shoveler *Anas smithii***

One at Mabuasehube Pan, amongst Red-billed Teals, on 8 Jan (AV) and one at Kalkfontein on 19 Mar (CAB).

### **Red-billed Teal *Anas erythrorhyncha***

Recorded at Mamusehube Pan in mid-Jan (AV), south-west of Kuke in 2122A3 and near Ghanzi 2121D2 in early Mar (AL), also west of Ghanzi in 2121C1 on 18 Mar and 38 at Kalkfontein on 19 Mar (CAB).

### **Southern Pochard *Netta erythrophthalma***

Recorded south-west of Kuke in 2122A3 on 5 Mar (AL).

### **Malachite Kingfisher *Alcedo cristata***

One was at Molose Pan, Khutse G.R. in Oct 2016 (IPad).

### **Pied Kingfisher *Ceryle rudis***

One was near Ghanzi in 2121D1 on 14 Mar (AL).

### **Giant Kingfisher *Megaceryle maxima***

One was at Samedupi Bridge over Boteti River SE of Maun in early Mar (PH) and one at the bridge over Kunyere River at Toteng on 14 Mar (AL)

**White-fronted Bee-eater *Merops Bullockoides***

20 – 30 at breeding site along Metsimothaba River in 2425D2, between Gaborone and Molepolole, on 22 Jan (ED).

**European Bee-eater *Merops apiaster***

Flocks recorded near Charleshill in 2220A3 and 2220A2 on 13 Mar (UF).

**Southern Carmine Bee-eater *Merops nubicoides***

Recorded near Ghanzi in 2121D2 on 13 Mar (UF).

**Klaas's Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx klaas***

Early date: one calling at Molapo Crossing, Gaborone on 4 Sept (BLB).

**White-rumped Swift *Apus caffer***

Recorded at Shakawe on 30 Oct (NiP).

**Burchell's Sandgrouse *Pterocles burchelli***

Two at Lekkerpoet (2228B4) on 3 Mar (IP).

**Verreaux's Eagle-Owl *Bubo lacteus***

Pair in Gaborone G.R. on 2 Sept 2016 (DC) and three there on 6 Mar (IW)

**Fiery-necked Nightjar *Caprimulgus pectoralis***

Recorded calling near Ghanzi in 2121C1 and 2121C2 in early Mar (AL).

**African Mourning Dove *Streptopelia decipiens***

Resident at Kalahari Arms Hotel in Ghanzi in early Mar (AL); this is a significant range extension for this species.

**African Green Pigeon *Treron calvus***

Five were at Khama Rhino Sanctuary camp-site on 27 April 2016 (AHa).

**Black Crake *Amaurornis flavirostris***

One was reported from Thakadu Camp, Ghanzi on 20 Dec 2015 (CB).

**Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus***

Recorded south-west of Kuke in 2122A3 on 5 and 14 Mar (AL) and west of Ghanzi in 2121C1 on 18 Mar (CAB).

**Lesser Moorhen *Gallinula angulata***

Away from the Okavango system where quite widespread and many seen at Kukale Pan near Samedupi in early Mar, and the Chobe N.P. where eight were seen on pans in the park in early Feb (GB, MB), the only records were two adults and an immature bird on 24 Dec on a weir on the Bonwapitse River at Dovedale in the Tuli Block (AHa), one on 9 Jan at a pan midway between Molpowabojang and Pelotshetlha and one at Dihudi

Pan near Mmathethe on 25 Feb (CAB). Three, including a juvenile, at a small pan near Mogonye (2425D3) on 12 Mar (ED).

**Red-knobbed Coot *Fulica cristata***

Recorded south-west of Kuke in 2122A3 on 5 Mar, two near Ghanzi in 2121D2 on 14 Mar (AL) and four at Kalkfontein on 19 Mar (CAB). High counts included about 460 at Sojwe Pan on 15 Jul and 900 at Rysana Pan on 17 Jul (CAB).

**Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis***

Two were at Mabusehube Pan on 8 Jan (AV) and 14 at Kalkfontein on 19 Mar (CAB).

**Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia***

Two were at Mabusehube Pan from 8 to 13 Jan (AV) and 20 at Kalkfontein on 19 Mar (CAB).

**Little Stint *Calidris minuta***

Ca. 20 at Mabusehube Pan on 8 Jan (AV) and ca. 80 at Kalkfontein on 19 Mar (CAB).

**Ruff *Philomachus pugnax***

Ca. 50 at Mabusehube Pan on 9 Jan (AV).

**Greater Painted-snipe *Rostratula benghalensis***

About 12 were seen along Bonwapitse River near Dovedale on 24 Dec (AHa). Two were at Marabou Pan on 3 Feb and one at Harvey's Pans on 5 Feb, all in Savute, Chobe N.P. (GB, MB). Four were recorded south-west of Kuke in 2122A3 on 5 Mar (AL) and singles at Tholobe Pan near Mmathethe on 22 April and at Mmabe Pan near Mochudi on 6 June (CAB).

**African Jacana *Actophilornis africanus***

Recorded south-west of Kuke in 2122A3 on 14 Mar (AL).

**Pied Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta***

One was at Mabusehube Pan on 9 Jan (AV). At Rysana Pan there were 258 on 17 Jul (CAB).

**Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula***

Four were noted along the Chobe River in the park on 30/31 Jan (GB, MB). One was at Kalkfontein on 19 Mar (CAB).

**Three-banded Plover *Charadrius tricollaris***

One was at Mabuasehube Pan on 9 Jan (AV).

**Chestnut-banded Plover *Charadrius pallidus***

On 17 Jul 59 including an adult with a chick, were at Rysana Pan (CAB).

**Caspian Plover *Charadrius asiaticus***

One bird in breeding plumage was seen at Savute on 27 June (AB).

**Collared (Red-winged) Pratincole *Glareola glareola***

Some 570 were noted in Savute and along the Chobe River within the park between 30 Jan and 3 Feb and a further 62 along the Linyanti River on 2 Feb (GB, MB). One was at Kalkfontein on 19 Mar, outside of species' expected range, on 19 Mar (CAB) and one at Sojwe on 19 Mar (IW).

**Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybrida***

One was seen at Kalkfontein on 19 Mar (CAB).

**White-winged Tern *Chlidonias leucopterus***

Small numbers at Mabuasehube Pan on 9 Jan (AV) and 12 at Kalkfontein on 19 Mar (CAB).

**Secretary Bird *Sagittarius serpentarius***

One was seen just south of Palapye on 4 Sept (GG).

**African Fish-Eagle *Haliaeetus vocifer***

Two were south-west of Kuke in 2122A3 on 14 Mar (AL).

**White-backed Vulture *Gyps africanus***

No.	Date	Place	Comments	Observer
2	24 May 2016	Farm Odendaalsrus, south of Lobatse		Joel Roerig, Leon Spies
17	2 Aug	Savute west of S18° 39.716 E024° 06.715	With 33 Bateleurs and a White-headed Vulture on dead trees and flying around	GB, MB
45	3 Aug	Linyanti S18° 18.859 E023° 53.171		GB, MB
7 - 10	7 Aug	South of Sibuyu F.R. in 1925B1		Karen Coetzer
5	2 Sept	Crocodile Pools, Notwane		MGG

No.	Date	Place	Comments	Observer
1	13 Oct	Between Sekoma and Jwaneng		AC
Ca.80	1 Nov 2015	Khama Rhino Sanctuary	Flying between two pans	IW, JD, ID
85	1 Nov	5kms north of Palapye	On a cow carcase	IW, JD, ID
1	1 Nov	Lake Ngami	Bird wing-tagged D088 near Ghanzi Mar 2013	NiP
10	2 Nov	Nata		GB, MB
2	11 Dec	Dopotta Farm 2228B2		DK
2	3 Nov	Near Shoshong	At dead donkey	GB, MB
66	3 Nov	North of Dibete in 2326D1	Feeding at carcase	GB, MB
2	11 Dec	Bokaa Dam		ED
3	16 Dec	Near Ngoma in 1824B1		GB, MB
9	17 Dec	Linyanti in 1823B4		GB, MB
1	18 Dec	Savute		GB, MB
Total of 13	19 Dec	Savute		GB, MB
6	20 Dec	Savute		GB, MB
Total of 55	22 Dec	Chobe N.P. in 1824A3		GB, MB
1	22 Dec	Chobe N.P. in 1724D4		GB, MB
Total of 50	23 Dec	Chobe N.P. in 1724D4 / 1725C3		GB / Mb
1	9 Jan	Pelotshetla 2525A3		CAB
Total of 20	30 Jan	Chobe N.P. near Kasane		GB, MB
Total of 9	31 Jan	Chobe N.P. near Ngoma		GB, MB
1	2 Feb	Linyanti in 1823B4		GB, MB
5	4 Feb	Savute area		GB, MB
6	6 Feb	Savute area		GB, MB
8	6 Feb	North of Hildavale		CAB
44	6 Feb	Kgoro Pan		CAB
35	10 Feb	Sita Pan	At carcase	CAB
140	13 Feb	Between Kuke and Sehithwa in 2022B4	At donkey carcase	UF



No.	Date	Place	Comments	Observer
2	25 Feb	Kgajane Pan near Mmathethe		CAB
1	5 Mar	North of Malotwana S24°247 E26°.233		BLB
40	14 Mar	Xhorodumo Pan		CAB
2	15 Mar	Khumaga		CAB
8	17 Mar	Tale Pan		CAB
3	17 Mar	Kuke		CAB
8	19 Mar	Kalkfontein		CAB
14	19 Mar	Between Sekoma and Jwaneng	Roosting on electricity poles at dusk	CAB
c 50	24 Mar	Near Diospyros Pan, Savute (1824C1)		JR
c 50	19 April	Along Trans Kalahari Highway in 2221B1	At donkey carcase	Arjen van Zwieten
15-20	3 June	Along Khwai River 1923C2	Hyaena kill	Hartmut Kolb
Circa 120	8 June	Savute	Buffalo carcase (lion kill)	Hartmut Kolb
1	24 June	South of Artesia	Roosting on power line	CAB
Circa 15	24 June	Darnaway Farm, Dovedale		BLB
1 adult	26 June	Mashatu G.R. in 2228B2		DM
1	2 Jul	Mmabe Pan near Mochudi		BLB

### **African Harrier-Hawk *Polyboroides typus***

One was noted at Kalkfontein on 19 Mar (CAB).

### **Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis***

Six south-west of Kuke in in 2122A3 on 14 Mar (AL) and two at Kalkfontein on 19 Mar (CAB),

### **Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus***

One at Mahalapye S.P. on 16 Aug 2016 was a new species for the site (PD'A). In south-east Botswana singles were seen in July at Gamolelee Dam on 22<sup>nd</sup> and at Moshupa Dam on 27<sup>th</sup> with three at Mogobane Dam on 27<sup>th</sup> (MGG, DG, HH), then three at Bokaa Dam on 26<sup>th</sup> and two at Thagale Dam on 28<sup>th</sup> (CAB).

**Little Egret *Egretta garzetta***

One was seen at Ghaghoo Mine, CKGR on 17 Nov (Bill Richter), four near Ghanzi in 2121D2 and also south-west of Ghanzi (2122A2) on 14 Mar (AL) and one at Kalkfontein on 19 Mar (CAB).

**Great Egret *Egretta alba***

One was at Kalkfontein on 13 Feb (UF). One near south-west of Kuke in 2122A3 on 14 Mar (AL)

**Black-headed Heron *Ardea melanocephala***

Recorded at Mabuasehube in mid-Jan (AV).

**Goliath Heron *Ardea goliath***

One was recorded from Ntwetwe Pan (2025C1) on 24 Mar (LH). On 21 June two adults and two immature birds were seen in trees at Nata Sanctuary, strongly suggesting breeding there (SSuth).

**Green-backed Heron *Butorides striata***

One was at Thakadu Camp, Ghanzi on 20 Dec 2015 (CB) and one south-west of Kuke in 212A3 on 5 Mar (AL).

**Black-crowned Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax***

One was south-west of Kuke in 2122A2 on 5 Mar (AL).

**Dwarf Bittern *Ixobrychus sturmii***

One was at a puddle along a track near Sita Pan on 25 Nov (CAB). Another was seen at Harvey's Pan in Savute, Chobe N.P. on 6 Feb (GB, MB) and several at Kukale Pan near Samedupi SE of Maun in early Mar (PH). One was recorded south-west of Kuke in 2122A3 on 5 Mar and a total of eight birds near Ghanzi in 2121D on 14 Mar (CAB). In south-east Botswana two were seen at Digwete Pan on 3 Mar and singles at Tholobe Pan near Mmathethe on 22 April, at Gamothware Pan and at Morotwane Pan, both near Magoriapitse on 28 April (CAB).

**Greater Flamingo *Phoenicopterus roseus (ruber)***

Some 562 were counted at Rysana Pan on 17 Jul and ca. 1,500 including many juveniles, at Mmea Pan on 18 Jul (CAB).

**Great White Pelican *Pelecanus onocrotalus***

One at Ghaghoo Mine in the CKGR on 20 Oct was surprising (BillR). On 30/31 Jan 12 were seen on the Chobe River within the park (GB, MB).

**Pink-backed Pelican *Pelecanus rufescens***

One was seen on 5 Feb at Harveys Pans in Savute, Chobe N.P. (GB, MB).

**Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus***

One was at Kalkfontein on 19 Mar (CAB).

**White Stork *Ciconia ciconia***

This migrant is increasingly remaining on its breeding grounds as in Iberia rather than migrating to Africa. In SE Botswana the only January record was of four at Tswaiing Pans on 30 Jan; one was seen at Motlopi Pan on 25 Feb and six at Dihudi Pan on 3 Mar (CAB).

**Yellow-billed Stork *Mycteria ibis***

Three were noted at Mogobane Dam on 2 Jan 2017 (MGG, DG, HH), two at Bokaa Dam on 11 Jan (CAB), one at Mahalapye S.P. in late Jan (PD'A) and one at Tswaiing Pans on 30 Jan (CAB). There was one at Motlopi Pan and 19 at Thipe Pan on 25 Feb and one west of Ghanzi in 2121C3 on 18 Mar (CAB).

**Marabou Stork *Leptoptilos crumeniferus***

Ca. 1,500 birds were at Tale Pan on 17 Mar and 310 at Kalkfontein on 19 Mar (CAB).

**Tropical Boubou *Laniarius aethiopicus***

Two birds at Paje, at very edge of expected range, on 3 Nov (GB, MB).

**Grey Penduline-Tit *Anthoscopus caroli***

Pair at top of escarpment in 2126A3 along vet fence between Thalamabele Gate and Tlapana Gate on 18 Jul was unexpected in this locality (CAB).

**Red-breasted Swallow *Hirundo semirufa***

Pair near Ghanzi in 2121C3 on 6 Mar (AL).

**Burnt-necked Eremomela *Eremomela usticollis***

Recorded at three localities in Ghanzi District in 2121C3 3 to 7 Mar (AL).

**Marsh Warbler *Acrocephalus palustris***

One along watercourse south of Molwapobojiang in 2525B3 on 24 Jan (CAB) One in song near Ghanzi in 2121D1 on 14 Mar (AL); this record is outside of the species normal range.

**Rufous-eared Warbler *Malcourus pectoralis***

Recorded at Rysana Pan on 13 Mar (CAB).

**Yellow-breasted Apalis *Apalis flavid***

Recorded on 17 Mar in 2022C2 in woodland at southeastern corner of Dautsa Flats (CAB).

**Pink-billed Lark *Spixocorys conirostris***

Common on black cotton soils northwest of Gathwane (2525A4) on 14 June (CAB).

**Common Mynah *Acridotheres tristis***

Two at Elephant Sands Lodge north of Nata (1926C1) on 25 Dec (DS) and two at Mabuasehube Pan on 9 Jan (AV).

**Lesser Masked Weaver *Ploceus intermedius***

Two males were noted near Ghanzi in 2121C1 on 11 Mar (AL).

**Yellow-crowned Bishop *Euplectes afer***

Breeding males at puddles of water near border post at Mamuno in 2220A3 on 5 Mar (UF); this record is far out of the known range of this species.

**Bronze Mannikin *Spermestes cucullatus***

Small groups were near Francistown in 21271 on 6 Mar (AHes) and eight at Crocodile Pools, Notwane on 29 July (CAB). Small numbers were also recorded on the old Lobatse Road, Gaborone during 2017 (JD & ID).

**Pin-tailed Whydah *Vidua macroura***

Two males were at Nata, outside of the expected range of this species, on 2 Nov (GB, MB).

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## Some Breeding Records in 2017

Compiled by Stephanie J. Tyler & Chris A. Brewster

Species	Date	Location	Nest site; nest contents	Obs.
Natal Francolin <i>Pternistis natalensis</i>	20 Aug	Near Moshupa (2425C2)	Pair with 2 young ca. 1 week old	CAB
Natal Francolin <i>Pternistis natalensis</i>	2017 July August	Southern Crocodile Pools in Mokolodi N.R.	6 families seen, one of 6 chicks, one of 5 chicks, one of 4 chicks and three of 3 chicks. The last were ca. 3 weeks old at the end of Aug	DMc
Crested Francolin <i>Dendroperdix sephaena</i>	2017 July	Crocodile Pools in Mokolodi N.R.	Pair with four chicks	DMc
Comb Duck <i>Sarkidiornis melanotus</i>	3 Mar	Dihudi Pan near Mmathethe	Adult with 6 young ca. 3 weeks old. A rare breeder in SE Botswana	CAB
Egyptian Goose <i>Alopochen aegyptiacus</i>	25 Feb	Kgajane Pan near Mmathethe	Adult with 5 tiny goslings	CAB
Egyptian Goose	25 Feb	Dihudi Pan	Four goslings ca. 10 days	CAB
Egyptian Goose	3 Mar	Khutsane Pan	Pair with 2 tiny goslings	CAB
Egyptian Goose	3 Mar	Mgwalale Pans near Mmathethe	Adult with 2 goslings ca. 10 days old ducklings	CAB
Egyptian Goose	3 Mar	Mogobe wa kgomo Pan	Pair with 3 tiny goslings	CAB
Egyptian Goose	26 Jul	Bokaa Dam	Pair with 8 young ca. 2 weeks old	CAB
Egyptian Goose	26 Jul	Bokaa Dam	Pair with 5 young ca. 10 days	CAB
Egyptian Goose	6 Aug	Thagale Dam	Adult sitting on eggs in thicket	IW
Maccoa Duck <i>Oxyura maccoa</i>	17 Jul	Sojwe Pan	Adult with 3 young ca 10 days	CAB
Red-knobbed Coot <i>Fulica cristata</i>	17 Jul	Sojwe Pan	11 adults with 1 and two adults with 3 young all <10 days	CAB

Species	Date	Location	Nest site; nest contents	Obs.
Burchell's Sandgrouse <i>Pterocles burchelli</i>	18 Jul	Between Rysana and Orapa	Pair with one young ca. 2 weeks	CAB
Chestnut-banded Plover <i>Charadrius pallidus</i>	18 Jul	Rysana Pan	Adult with one tiny chick	CAB
Whiskered Tern <i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>	24 Jan	Kgoro Pan nr. Good Hope	Building	CAB
Whiskered Tern	3 Mar	Dihudi Pan nr. Mmathethe	Dive-bombing observer to protect nests	CAB
Little Grebe <i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	25 Feb	Motlopi Pan near Mmathethe	3 tiny young	CAB
Great Crested Grebe <i>Podiceps cristatus</i>	24 Aug	Thagale Dam	Pair with one chick	IW
White-breasted Cormorant <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	28 July	Thagale Dam	7 active nests: one with adult on nest, 2 with 3 full-grown young, 2 with one full-grown young, one with 2 young ca. 3 weeks old, one with 2 full-grown young	CAB
Grey Heron <i>Ardea cinerea</i>	26 July	Bokaa Dam	Active heronry at west end, 6 adults, one bird on a nest	CAB
Grey Heron	28 July	Thagale Dam	Four nests, at least two active	CAB
Grey Heron	6 Aug	Thagale Dam	Adults sitting on 3 nests, pair building another	IW
Black-headed Heron <i>Ardea melanocephala</i>	17 July	Sojwe Pan	Adult with one young on nest in reeds	CAB
African Spoonbill <i>Platalea alba</i>	28 July	Thagale Dam	Four nests, at least one active. Juveniles nearby.	CAB
Yellow-fronted Tinkerbird <i>Pogoniulus chrysoconus</i>	16 Dec 2016	Near Mogobane	Adult feeding immature	CAB
Yellow-bellied Greenbul <i>Chlorocichla flaviventris</i>	19 Aug	Moeng (2227D1)	pair feeding one fledged young	IW
Golden-winged Pytilia <i>Pytilia afra</i>	11 Aug	Moeng	Pair adult + 3 young	IW

Observers: CAB Chris Brewster; DMc Doreen McColaugh; HH Harold Hester; MMG Mike Goldsworthy; IW Ian White.

*Ed. If you find evidence of breeding of any species in Botswana, then please do submit details to BirdLife Botswana.*



African Openbill  
*Photo: Richard Randall*





# BABBLER

*Photo: Richard Randall*

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*Namaqua Sandgrouse*

*Photo: Ian White*

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