

ISSN 1012 - 2974

BABBLER

Journal of BirdLife Botswana



Number 50

January 2008

BIRDLIFE BOTSWANA

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Compiled by Stephanie J. Tyler

Cover photo: Mark Muller

Editorial

From afar I try to keep track of the development of BirdLife Botswana and am constantly amazed just how the organisation has grown. Thanks are due of course to our Director, Kabelo Senyatso, all the staff and volunteers and not to be forgotten, to our tireless Chairman, Harold Hester, who has steered the fledgling organisation through to the large organisation it is today with its increasing number of staff. A large organisation is not the goal; the real goal is an organisation with enthusiastic effective staff, an organisation respected by government and one that makes a real difference to bird conservation. We seem to be well on our way to reaching this goal.

In a semi-desert country birds are always moving about in response to rainfall. The recent drought has certainly caused some birds to move away from normal haunts and others to turn up in strange places. Particular excitements have included sightings of Burchell's Coursers at Lake Ngami and at Dautsa Flats west of Sehitwa by Mark Muller, Ali Flatt, Richard Randall and Chris Brewster. This species has previously been a rarity only in the south and southwest. A real surprise was the Rose-coloured Starling seen by Robert Self and Katie Hoff among Wattled Starlings on the golf course at Mowana Lodge at Kasane. This was the first record of this species for Botswana and only the second record from southern Africa. Common Quails at Lake Ngami and Stark's Larks at Dautsa Flats are among other notable sightings (see records sections in this *Babbler*).

Contributions for *Babbler* continue to trickle in. This issue includes an important paper by Pete Hancock, Mark Muller and Brian Bridges on their surveys of breeding Lappet-faced Vultures in northern Botswana and a response by Dieter Oschadleus to a previous note in *Babbler* on Spectacled Weavers in the Okavango. There is also the regular waterbird counts report and a range of interesting notes on species such as Mosque Swallow, Ashy Tit, Swamp Boubou and Dusky Sunbird from Chris Brewster, Mark Muller, Richard Randall and Brian Rode.

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Chairman's report May 2007

Summary

This has been another year of rapid advancement where we have continued to make progress in many diverse areas. The highlight was our promotion to BirdLife Partner-designate status by BirdLife International. As in life, when one attains one target one immediately looks at the next; that has to be the ultimate recognition of our Society as a full member of BirdLife International when we can take our place as equals with all the other partners around the world. We will be working assiduously towards this target over the next few years. As full partners we will be immersed in species conservation, habitat and site conservation, supporting people's livelihoods which are dependent on birds and lastly our membership would reflect the demographics of Botswana's population.

Species Conservation

Work has continued in monitoring several species. Pete Hancock has initiated work on the Lappet-faced Vulture; a poster has been printed and a brochure will be produced soon. Monitoring of the Slaty Egret fixed transects continues. Fund-raising for satellite tracking of the Wattled Crane continues as this project remains a priority. Graham McCulloch has continued monitoring the Lesser

Flamingoes at Sua Pan. The Borellos have also continued their excellent work on the Cape Vulture. Kabelo Senyatso has been awarded a Commonwealth Scholarship to study the Kori Bustard; this will allow him to read for his doctorate.

The introduction of Botswana Tickbird by Pete Hancock and his team has gone smoothly, if not a little quietly. A handful of members are using the system properly and we encourage all others to try to master the system. In doing so, we will gain much information about the distribution of birds in Botswana and members will have a readily available file for their sightings. One of the advantages of this programme is that we are obtaining information on breeding records and sightings of birds of concern. RSPB through Rachel Roberts have been very supportive and have donated additional funds towards the system. Tsogo Maiphetho of our Maun office coordinates this information. He is also responsible for computerising the Nest Record system, and has entered several thousand records to date.

The Records Subcommittee currently consists of five members: Chris Brewster, who chairs the committee, Stephanie Tyler, Huw Penry, Richard Randall and Andrew Hester. Keddy

Mooketsa is secretary of the subcommittee. Mark Muller resigned from the subcommittee earlier this year and we thank him for all his input into the subcommittee during the years that he was a member. The Records Subcommittee adjudicates all records of species new for Botswana and of species that have ten or less records. They also deal with records of more common bird species. Over the past year several new species have been added to the Botswana Bird List. These species are Olive Woodpecker, Crowned Hornbill, Greater Sandplover, Augur Buzzard, White-necked Raven, Angola Swallow, Cloud Cisticola and Northern Grey-headed Sparrow. With the addition of these species, 588 bird species have now been recorded in Botswana.

The bi-annual water bird counts continued during the year, under the guidance and leadership of Steph Tyler. Progress is being made in introducing new “counters” and members are urged to volunteer their services for this important activity. It is so interesting to note how numbers of birds vary from season to season across the country and pleasing that we are covering more and more of the country. This valuable information is forwarded by Stephanie to Wetlands International.

Conservation of sites and habitats

During summer, ongoing bird monitoring at Lake Ngami showed that this IBA supported the largest concentration of birds in recent years; indications are that this summer may be even better. Work has continued on the monitoring protocol document for species and important bird areas. Bird monitoring activities were initiated in the Linyanti Swamps/Chobe River IBA when BirdLife Botswana played an active role in the environmental monitoring of the tsetse eradication programme during winter 2006; fortunately there were no significant negative impacts on the bird species monitored. Data collected will form the basis for ongoing monitoring of this IBA.

We implemented scheduled activities of the BirdLife/United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)/Global Environment Facility (GEF) project. Important and necessary discussions were held with the Dept. of Environmental Affairs and other key stakeholders tasked with prioritising Botswana’s projects under the new GEF financing mechanism, the Resource Allocation Framework. Other major tasks were reviewing the two consultancies we had commissioned (policy and legislation and socio-economic status at the project site), as well as contributing to those commissioned at the regional level (e.g. the Communications strategy).

Under the Swede-Bio project, where we are working to develop relationships with communities at Lake Ngami, Otse and Nata Sanctuary, we have engaged Mr Sehenyi “Sheks” Tlotlego as Community Liaison Officer based in Maun. We have engaged the local community groups near Lake Ngami, Mannyelanong Hill and Nata Sanctuary to mobilise them into site support groups (SSG), which should ensure improved status of the biodiversity over the long term. They have registered the Bosele Lake Ngami Conservation Trust as a legal entity to further their birding tourism aims throughout Controlled Hunting Area NG 38 which includes the lake and surrounds. The Trust already has an office and is fundraising to execute its 2007 workplan which was developed at a participatory workshop and approved by the communities. In the Makgadikgadi IBA, Graham McCulloch and Tsogo Maiphetho recently conducted a specialist bird guide course for members of the Nata Sanctuary Trust, thereby building a stronger relationship with the Trust which will set the scene for the BirdLife/UNDP/GEF project (see below).

We have offered the post of European Union (EU)/Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)/BirdLife Important Bird Area Project Manager

to a talented young man for the next four years. Broadly the project will establish a mechanism to monitor the Important Bird Areas in Botswana, to liaise with our Secretariat in Nairobi, to train people in those areas to assist in this monitoring and to meet defined targets.

People programme

A major objective under this heading will be the input to the community of Nata Sanctuary over the next four years under the BirdLife/UNDP/GEF project, where we are applying for \$1 million from the GEF to promote a number of activities and thrusts in that Important Bird Area.

The scientific journal “*Babbler*” continues to be enjoyed by a wide readership. Stephanie Tyler has done exceptionally well in producing two outstanding and interesting copies a year. The covers of the last two editions have been enhanced by brilliant colour photographs by two of our active members. But it is what lies between the covers which is so interesting and enjoyable to read and long may Stephanie continue to edit “*Babbler*”. We do appreciate the continued financial support of Remi and Wendy Borello towards the printing costs.

Our two other publications serve different areas of interest. The informative and high-quality *Conservation Newsletter* is produced

quarterly by Pete Hancock and goes mainly to professional guides and corporate supporters. The *Familiar Chat*, also produced quarterly, serves the social needs of the Society and is produced by Daphne Goldsworthy, to whom we are most grateful.

A most successful initiative was the school's art competition in which sixty-two schools around the country took part. This was organised to popularise our book "*Beginners Guide to Birds of Botswana*" which was distributed last year. T-shirts showing the winning drawings were produced for sale at our shop.

Owing to the exceptional organising and imaginative talents of Mary Lane-Jones, we held a most successful photographic competition. Nearly three hundred entries were received from Europe, the US, South Africa and of course Botswana, and as the standard of entries was so high we are producing a calendar for 2008 featuring some of these photographs. We are at present canvassing potential sponsors for three different calendars, an A2 and A3 version and a single page calendar for the year. As usual Doreen McColaugh has done outstanding work on the educational front. She is producing an activity book to be used by teachers in conjunction with the "*Beginners Guide to Birds of Botswana*", has continued to assist

with workshops all over the country in her close liaison with the Ministry of Education. An unsung and unheralded role is the support she gives Steph Tyler in producing *Babbler*.

Our web-site was re-vamped and features a range of information. Members are encouraged to use it as much as possible. A popular feature is the "bird of the month" article.

Our shop in Broadhurst, which we share with Messrs Hazellwood, continues to provide important exposure to the public. We are grateful to Wendy Heyns for her continued support and to Marian Stewart for her continued interest and involvement.

On the social side, we have held regular walks and talks at all four branches, which have proved to be as popular as ever. Our thanks and appreciation go to the various contributors who have entertained and educated us in a variety of birding fields and activities. It is indeed pleasing to report that all four branches are active and our thanks go especially to Pete Hancock in Maun, Geoff and Trish Williams in Kasane and Guy Brina in Francistown for keeping the flag flying. Nicky Bousfield has continued her sterling efforts to have The Lady Mary Ranch, just outside Francistown,

recognised as a wildlife sanctuary. She has been ably assisted by Graham and Anna McCulloch.

Membership

At the end of 2006, our membership had grown to 278, of which a pleasing 22 were schools and clubs and 14 were corporate members. This year there has been an encouraging increase in student members. Our future lies with the youth of Botswana and it is encouraging to see their interest being kindled. Mike Goldsworthy has done very well in controlling this portfolio and Pete Hancock has been active in recruiting corporate members in Ngamiland. Mooketsi Mfolwe, an enthusiastic volunteer, has been successful in recruiting students and schools.

Financial management

As the Society has grown, so too have our financial responsibilities and requirements have increased. We are very fortunate to have enjoyed the kind, accurate, prompt support of our Treasurer Daphne Goldsworthy. I sincerely hope she knows how much we appreciate her input.

This time last year we desperately needed a fund-raiser and the angel Mary appeared out of a cloud. Mary Lane-Jones has been simply outstanding in garnering support from the local business community for a variety of sponsorships, ranging from

the photographic competition to our proposed calendar. How we managed without her before, one will never know. There is still so much that needs tackling. An initiative of Mary's has been to recruit an experienced, dynamic young lady with a marketing background, Deborah Matthews, to form a marketing sub-committee. Please watch this spot for future very exciting developments. We will shortly be introducing a scheme called Species Guardians, in which interested parties can adopt a particular Botswana species for one to three years on payment of a nominal contribution. The earliest sponsors will be able to choose their species from the whole field.

In last year's report I mentioned the significant five-year loan we had been granted by a couple of members. I am so pleased (and relieved) to say that this loan has grown by 40%pa over the last eighteen months. If any other donors wish to support us in this way, we would be pleased to hear what they have to say. In three and a half year's time the original loans will be repaid and we will have a fund which will be invested to yield regular monthly contributions to our overheads. (International sponsors are reluctant donors to overheads.) We are now in a position to guarantee the return of large loans, should anyone feel they would like to join this programme.

Administration

Our Society has been characterised by enthusiastic volunteers, who have applied themselves to core functions over the years, and in the recent past, they have been supported by a small enthusiastic Secretariat which is learning the ropes and in time will assume more and more of the responsibility of the aging volunteers. The Secretariat, soon to have a complement of six full time staff, has been very successful in tackling major issues which have been highlighted in the body of the report. But it is obvious that we need additional staff to support them, and that we need to reorganise our structure. So this morning we convened a meeting with our National Committee which included representatives from near and far to discuss the way forward. We have come up with some good ideas and these will be fleshed out in August. Suffice to say that we recognise that we need permanent staff to bolster our Secretariat in key functions. We will address this as soon as possible. We have agreed to appoint Kabelo Senyatso as the first Director of BirdLife Botswana with effect from today. We recognise that we will have to change our Constitution to accommodate these changes and this will be done during the coming year.

Pete Hancock, with support from Geoff Williams in Kasane, has prepared an excellent set of Staff Policies and Procedures which have now become so necessary with a growing number of employees.

Generous thanks are due to our two backroom ladies, Keddy Mooketsa and Reiko Iitsuka who carry out their responsibilities so enthusiastically. I wish to pay tribute to Paula Tutt our Secretary, Dollina Malepa and Balisi Bonyongo for their contributions during the year under review. Balisi has helped us considerably in our strategic planning for the future.

We are at present arranging with Messrs Eco-Surv to move into larger premises on this complex. Our Maun office has been provided with very comfortable premises in the form of a house belonging to Ngami Toyota, and we are grateful to the owners, Mark Muller and Brian Bridges, for making this available free of charge, and for their unstinting support for our field activities in northern Botswana.

We appreciate so much the tremendous support we receive from the BirdLife Secretariat in Nairobi, especially Dr Hazell Thompson, Maaiké Mantén, Julius Arinaitwe and Paulinus Ngeh. These hardworking people give of themselves so

unstintingly and it is such a privilege and pleasure to work with them.

Lastly I wish to thank all our sponsors and corporate members who have helped in so many ways to ease our financial burdens. Without this valuable assistance we would still be on the starting line.

Conclusion

BirdLife Botswana is in a healthy condition thanks to all those I have mentioned in my report. We are a young dynamic Society and everyone just seems to want to contribute so much that it has been a pleasure

working with a common goal to protect our bird species and conserve the environment. At the end of my tenth year as Chairman I can honestly say that BirdLife Botswana has never been as strong when considering number of members, strength of Secretariat, funds in the bank, projects under investigation and committee composition and enthusiasm.

Harold Hester, Chairman, May 26, 2007, BLB AGM



Secretary Birds *Photographer: R. Rule*

Waterbird counts in July 2006 and January 2007

Stephanie J. Tyler

WINTER COUNTS

Southeast Botswana

Dams were still almost full from the summer rains and some pans still held water. This meant that with plenty of water about, birds had a wide choice and no sites had very high counts. Visits were made to 14 sites where over 4,000 birds of 54 species were noted.

Bokaa Dam did produce over 1,000 birds (Table 1) with White-faced Duck (320) and Red-knobbed Coot (340) the most numerous species. Of note were 31 Great Crested Grebe, including a pair with a 10-14 day old juvenile, and 17 Maccoa Ducks as well as breeding Reed Cormorants and Black-headed Herons in reeds at the western end of the reservoir.

Gamoleele Dam was too full for a large count but ten Maccoa Ducks and two to three pairs of nesting Spur-winged Geese were of note. Moshupa Dam only produced 76 birds but there were nine Great Crested Grebes and 40 Coot. Mike Goldsworthy and Harold Hester who counted at this attractive dam, noted that there was much netting of fish taking place, potentially dangerous for grebes as they may become

caught in nets. At Bathoen Dam disturbance from people tending vegetable plots by the dam and numerous cattle had little affected birds. There were still reasonable numbers of waterfowl including a Maccoa Duck and 26 Yellow-billed Ducks. There were breeding Black-headed Herons in reeds at the inflow end of Mogobane Dam where 60 herons were counted. Nnywane Dam near Lobatse produced 33 Yellow-billed Duck and only a handful of other birds.

Phakalane sewage ponds (S.P.) held little of interest whilst the count at Tsholofelo S.P. and the adjacent wetland in Gaborone Game Reserve was also rather low. There was a high count for Ramotswa S.P. with a single Greater Flamingo and Fulvous Duck. Jwaneng S.P. had rather few birds but among them eight Maccoa Ducks and 51 Cape Teal, whilst Lobatse S.P. also held very few birds. Kgoro Pan still held some water but again rather few birds.

A visit was also made to Sojwe Pan on 11 June and 13 species of waterbird noted including 53 Greater Flamingo and a flock of 213 White Storks. In early September a full

count was made but numbers of all species were then low.

Eastern Botswana

At Shashe Dam of note were 22 White Pelicans, 100 Greater Flamingo and 144 Southern Pochard whilst White-breasted Cormorants were busy nesting in dead trees at five sites in the dam. There were 28 nests at these sites, mainly with adults incubating or brooding small chicks or with one to three larger chicks.

Makgadikgadi Pans

Counts at Mea, Mokubilo and Rysana Pans were made in early May but are included here as winter counts. Mokubilo Pan was dry and Rysana Pan had only a few small pools but the Chestnut-banded Plovers were of note, especially as they were breeding and 19 of the 46 birds were juveniles. Mea Pan was very productive with over 2,000 Greater Flamingos, 150 Avocets and 300 Black-winged Stilts as well as 17 Wattled Cranes. Sua Spit and Nata Delta between them produced over 300 Greater and 516 Lesser Flamingos as well as seven White-fronted Plovers, 27 Chestnut-banded Plovers and three Caspian Terns (the latter breeding there).

Okavango Delta

There was good coverage of sites despite the wet and difficult conditions (see Table 1). Over 11,000

birds were counted and that excluded the Okavango River that unfortunately was not covered.

As usual the Boteti River from the Thamalakane divide down to below Chanoga was the most productive site and held the most species of any site in Botswana (see Table 1). The Thamalakane River (from the Boro confluence to the Boteti/Nhabe divide) and the loop off to Xini Lediba in Moremi G.R. each both boasted over 1,000 birds. Of note on the Xini Loop were almost 1,000 White-faced Duck and 436 Comb Ducks.

Despite Lake Ngami rapidly drying out at the time of the count in July and being restricted to a few pools there was still a diversity of species including White Pelican, both species of flamingo, and 69 White Storks. In August the lake was again rapidly filling.

Two sections of the Boro River were visited with 140 Squacco Herons and 396 African Openbills of note. The 36 Pygmy Geese were a fraction of the number seen in the late 1970s on this river. An Allen's Gallinule, the only one noted in the winter in the Okavango Delta counts, was on the upper section. Of note on the Jao/Kwetsane floodplain were 27 Slaty Egrets.

Table 1. Counts of waterbirds at sites in Botswana, July 2006. Sites marked with an asterisk were counted early (June) in the winter or later than July (late Aug/Sept)

Site	No. birds	No sp.	Site	No. Birds	No. sp.
Southeast Botswana	5,311	54	Makgadikgadi Pans	6,198	50
Bathoen Dam	116	16	Sua Spit, Sua Pan	1,038	29
Bokaa Dam	1,170	29	Nata Delta, Sua Pan	541	36
Gamoleele Dam	228	20	Mea Pan *	4,516	26
Grand Palm, Gab.*	36	6	Rysana Pan *	103	5
Jwaneng S.P.	159	15			
Kgoro Pan	32	6	Okavango Delta	11,419	74
Lobatse S.P.	156	17	Lower Boro River	429	22
Mogobane Dam	231	14	Upper Boro River	723	22
Moshupa Dam	76	12	Boteti River	4,152	51
Ngotwane Dam*	117	24	Jao/Ketswane Flats	509	27
Nnywane Dam	44	6	Khwai River up	482	37
Phakalane S.P.	351	24	Khwai down (2 km)	47	13
Ramotswa S.P.	443	17	Lake Ngami	562	25
Sojwe Pan*	166	25	Linyanti	787	37
Tsholofelo S.P/G.R.	686	39	Thamalakane River	1,406	33
Two dams near Otse	38	11	S. Gate-Third Bridge	137	16
			Xini Loop, Moremi	1,743	24
Eastern Botswana	988	33			
Shashe Dam	988	33	Chobe River	16,260	42

The only Pink-backed Pelican of the Okavango counts was seen at Gadikwe Lediba, one of the three 'heronry' lagoons on the Maunachira River in Moremi Game Reserve.

The section of the Linyanti from King's Pool to Zibadianja held a diversity of species among which

were 11 Wattled Plovers, the highest count in the Okavango of this species.

Chobe River

Between the old Park entrance and Ngoma Bridge more than 16,000 birds were counted. The actual numbers may have been much higher. White-faced Duck (almost 10,000)

and Comb Ducks (over 3,500) were the most numerous species. Few White Pelicans were seen, perhaps because so many were on the Boteti River near Chanoga (ca 1,000 on 24 July).

SUMMER COUNTS

Rainfall over the country was very mixed. Although the north had reasonable rain there was only sporadic falls in the southeast. Around Gaborone Chris Brewster reported that there had been only 134 mm of rain between the start of the year and mid February and only 198 mm to mid March. Consequently, water levels in some dams such as Bokaa Dam, Bathoen near Kanye and Gamoleele Dam were very low (and at the latter dam were large numbers of domestic livestock and people). By contrast in the Makgadikgadi system at Nata Delta there was still much standing water, to a depth of 0.5m, making access to the delta itself difficult.

Southeast Botswana

As usual Bokaa Dam surpassed all other sites in terms of overall numbers of birds and of species. Of particular note were about 1,500 White-faced Duck and 210 Black-winged Pratincoles. Lobatse S.P. held over 1100 birds including about 500 Southern Pochard and 8-12 Wattled Plovers. However, other smaller sites did produce some good individual species counts. For example, there

were 58 South African Shelduck and 55 Maccoa Duck at Jwaneng S.P., 18 South African Shelduck and 16 Maccoa Duck at Ramotswa S.P., 19 Maccoa Duck at Mogobane Dam and 10 Yellow-billed Storks and a Green Sandpiper at Gamoleele Dam. There was no count at Phakalane S.P. but CAB reported that there were very few birds there other than some fish-eaters as White-breasted Cormorants and Little Egrets and a few Blacksmith Lapwings, Egyptian Geese and Spur-winged Geese.

Eastern Botswana

Heavy rain on the count morning and the lack of a boat meant that approximately only 50% of Shashe Dam was counted. However, over 1,500 birds were noted including 12 African Fish Eagles and two White-fronted Plovers.

Makgadikgadi Pans

There was an excellent count at Nata Sanctuary of over 7,000 birds included 3,206 White and 49 Pink-backed Pelicans, 34 Grey Herons, 181 Yellow-billed Storks, 12 Grey Crowned Cranes and no fewer than 1,093 Whiskered Terns. The high Sua Spit count was dominated by flamingos – over 5,000 Greater and over 100,000 Lesser.

Okavango Delta

Counts at ten localities in the Okavango yielded almost 10,000 birds of 78 species. Whilst separate

from the Delta, Maun S.P. often provides something of interest. January was no exception with the two species of flamingo present as well as 12 Pied Avocet, and eight White-fronted Plovers.

As always (except for *L. Ngami*), the Boteti and Thamalakane Rivers at the

southern edge of the Delta were the most productive sites for diversity (57 species on the two rivers) and numbers (almost 7,000 birds). Highlights were >700 White-backed Ducks on these rivers and 38 African Skimmers. There were 56 Wattled Cranes on the Jao Flats. Elsewhere in the Delta numbers were quite low.

Table 2. Waterbirds counted during January and February 2007 (excluding kingfishers and wagtails)

Site	No. Birds	No sp.		No. Birds	No sp.
SE Botswana	8,822	61	Makgadikgadi Pans	112,658	55
Bathoen Dam	180	12	Sua Spit, Sua Pan	105,387	34
Bokaa Dam	4,183	45	Nata Delta, Sua Pan	7271	47
Gamoleele Dam	670	29			
Jwaneng S.P.	423	20	Okavango Delta	9,828	78
Kgoro Pan	Dry		Gadikwe Lediba	186	15
Lobatse S.P.	1,188	25	Gcobega Lediba	72	15
Mogobane Dam	567	24	Xakanaxa Lediba	123	16
Moshupa Dam	563	18	Maunachira River	46	14
Ngotwane Dam	266	25	Boteti River*	3,202	49
Ramotswa S.P.	782	19	Jao/Kwetsane Flats	601	36
			Khwai River up	369	28
East Botswana	1,517	43	Thamalakane River*	3,718	45
Shashe Dam	1,517	43	Okavango River	979	25
			Maun S.P.	533	22
Chobe River	4,090	41			

Chobe River

The short section from the park boundary up to Mowana Lodge between Kasane and Kazungula was covered and a team of observers covered the long section from the

Park boundary to Ngoma Bridge and found almost 4,000 birds but no species in very high numbers. Nine African Crakes were of note though.

Acknowledgements

My sincere thanks to everyone who helped with the winter and/or summer counts.

In southeast Botswana: Chris Brewster, Ian Draycott, Keddy Mooketsi, Mike and Daphne Goldsworthy, Harold Hester with, at various times, Leo Quayle, Mpho Bowie and Giles and Lauren Calenborne, John and Inga Dalziel, Marion Stewart and Lindsay and Stephanie Tyler made the counts.

At Shashe Dam: A team comprising Peter D'Arcy, Guy Brina, Tess and Maggie Brina, Nicky Bousfield, Lesley Hagon, Emanuel Manferrari, Butch Rennie and Stella Rumble counted by boat and from the shore in the winter and the first six observers plus Dave and Tracy Buchan, George Herd and Helen Williamson from the shore only in early February 2007.

In the Makgadikgadi Pans: Neil Taylor counted at three important pans in May and Graham McCulloch at Sua Spit and Nata Delta in June. Graham and Anna McCulloch also did the summer count at Nata, together with Ali Flatt, Mark Muller and Richard Randall, whilst Graham surveyed Sua Spit in Sua Pan too.

In the Okavango Delta: Hannelore Bendsen, Jeff Blagg, Brian and

Doline Bridges, Ian Clark, Dorothy Cheney, Ali Flatt, Pete Hancock, Pat Hagen, David Hartley, Mark Muller, Moamogdi Monwela, Victor Horatius, Kitty Kechube, Kealeboga Magola, Tsogo Maiphetho, Mendy Makwati and Zee Mpfu, Roger Hawker, Priscilla Orman, Richard D. Randall, Wendy Schwartz, Carol Swehelm, Robert and Lucy Seyfarth, Glen Stephen and Neil Taylor all contributed to the winter counts. In the summer Kutlwano Banda, Hannelore Bendsen, Florian Bendsen, Ali Flatt, Pete Hancock, Elizabeth Harcourt, Jost Kabozu, John Kgari, Tsogo Maiphetho, Mendy Makwati, David Mapodise, Zee Mpfu, Mark Muller, Jargon Nchunga, Richard D. Randall, Wago Sarefo, Jakes Tembwe and Justin Wootton were the volunteers.

Along the Chobe River: Neil Taylor aided by Wendy Dando and Mothusi Jenamiso did a three day count from Kasane to Ngoma Bridge in the winter. In January Richard Randall, Mark Muller, Ali Flatt and E. Harcourt covered this long section whilst Mark van der Valle surveyed the short section from the Park Boundary to Mowana Lodge.

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Table 3. Counts of all species in dry season (July 2006) and wet season (January 2006/07)

Species	Dry season (Winter) 2006					Wet season (Summer) 2006/2007				
	SE	E	M.P.	O.D.	NE	SE	E	M.P.	O.D.	NE
Great Crest. Grebe	44					1				
Little Grebe	429	91	145	297	22	352	7	18	199	
White Pelican		22	133	313	6			3213		
Pink-back. Pelican				1				49		
Great Cormorant	194	70		2	3	12	31	149		55
Reed Cormorant	53	48	6	189	266	16	157		346	44
African Darter	69	40	1	140	69	7	32		326	10
Grey Heron	25	14	10	113	40	43	21	342	20	
Black-head. Heron	107			46	1	29	4	1		
Goliath Heron			2	1	2			21	4	5
Purple Heron		1		35	2				18	
Great Egret	27	4	4	102	59	20	2	1	51	39
Little Egret	3	15	4	35	51	61	29	10	46	5
Intermediate Egret		2		18	2		3		7	78
Black Egret						9			53	17
Slaty Egret				52					33	7
Cattle Egret	1128	40	42	350	26	245	356	21	1894	313
Squacco	3	1		194	26	3			143	
Unidentified egrets				108	20					
Green-back. Heron	3			19	2	3			4	
Rufous-bell. Heron				42	1				8	3
Black-cr. N.Heron	21	1	3	27		10	20		5	3
White-b. N.Heron									1	
Little Bittern				1					5	
Dwarf Bittern			1						1	
Hamerkop	3		1	39	13	2			19	2
White Stork				69		8		23		
Abdim's Stork						9		7		
African Openbill				815	5			17	812	25
Saddle-bill. Stork				32	3			1	9	
Marabou Stork			28	86	9		2	37	68	
Yellow-billed Stork			1	48	92	12	11	181	25	
Sacred Ibis	33	2	3	64	17	8	1	11	67	6
Glossy Ibis		8	81	93		8	3	9	1	25
Hadeda Ibis	16			23					5	
African Spoonbill	33	30	17	88	33	62	11	23	5	4
Greater Flamingo	17	100	2451	37		5	3	5059	2	
Lesser Flamingo	7		516	43		5		100482	1	
White-faced Duck	839		309	2,068	9,852	1854	53	6	588	1,036
Fulvous Duck	1			56	53	1		3	16	500

Species	Dry season (Winter) 2006					Wet season (Summer) 2006/2007				
	SE	E	M.P.	O.D.	NE	SE	E	M.P.	O.D.	NE
White-backed Duck				184					735	
Egyptian Goose	151	57	146	266	671	334	137	24	41	388
Cape Shelduck	42					100				
Black Duck		2				3				
Yellow-billed Duck	127			19		287			25	
Cape Teal	86		12			123		38	12	
Hottentot Teal	7	1	33	11		8	21	5	42	3
Red-billed Teal	289	164	604	1,167	140	854	84	430	207	30
Cape Shoveler	10		4	3		25		8		
Southern Pochard	231	144	68	123		762	3	38	94	
Maccoa Duck	38		1			91				
Pygmy Goose				148	8				298	21
Comb Duck	41		15	544	3561	24	19	8	83	128
Spur-winged Goose	139	14	9	93	16	117	57	1	90	249
Unidentified ducks			167	235	527					
African Fish Eagle	8	8	4	79	29	2	12	11	41	33
Afr. Marsh Harrier				3				1	10	3
W. Marsh Harrier								2		
Gr. Crowned Crane								12		
Wattled Crane			17	56					58	
African Crake									5	9
Baillon's Crake									1	
Black Crake	13	4		44		3	1		65	
Purple Swamphen	1			1					2	
Allen's Gallinule				1					7	1
Common Moorhen	49	2		14		2			88	
Lesser Moorhen				2					21	
Red-knobbed Coot	556		79	46		489	2	235	114	
African Jacana	18	2		744	92	9	21		729	206
Lesser Jacana				6					31	
Painted Snipe	1			4					3	
Ringed Plover				1		59	2	1		
White-front. Plover		1	7			2	2		8	
Chestnut-b. Plover			76					22		
Kittlitz's Plover	11	8	192	40		74	66	107	6	
Three-band. Plover	29	8	9	13		12	6	1	30	2
Caspian Plover						5				
Crowned Lapwing	1		26	8	33		10	4	4	
Blacksm. Lapwing	126	61	206	770	251	306	80	42	1560	611
Wattled Lapwing				11	15	10			8	
Long-toed Lapwing				21	12				43	6
Common Sandpiper	2		24	6	1	74	26	13	78	15
Green Sandpiper						1				
Wood Sandpiper	34		31	14		157	58	110	58	35
Marsh Sandpiper	2		23			16	4	3	1	

Species	Dry season (Winter) 2006					Wet season (Summer) 2006/2007				
	SE	E	M.P	O.D.	NE	SE	E	M.P.	O.D.	NE
Greenshank	6		18	16		49	12	3	2	7
Curlew Sandpiper	16					380	17	3		
Little Stint	22					490	4	7	16	
Ruff	115		19			744	60	243	45	27
Unid. waders								222		
African Snipe				6					6	
Pied Avocet	24	1	200	47		12		50	12	
Black-winged Stilt	59	26	332	271	81	151		45	28	15
Water Dikkop				17	8				26	49
Collared Pratincole				42					16	5
Black-w.Pratincole						210			50	
Grey-headed Gull		4	40		7			163	1	
Caspian Tern					2			3		
Whiskered Tern			5	4	116	3		1114	149	
White-winged Tern	15		56			49	16	6		
Unidentified terns			14		15					
African Skimmer									38	
TOTAL	5332	988	6198	11419	16260	8822	1517	112658	9829	4090
No. species	55	33	50	74	42	60	43	55	78	41



Black Heron *Photographer: Dr Brehm*

The Spectacled Weaver in the Okavango

H. Dieter Oschadleus

Introduction

Fisher (1998, 2006) describes a nest of a Spectacled Weaver *Ploceus ocularis* from Jao camp in the Okavango Delta, Botswana. The nest was found in November 1993 (Fisher 2006), the year given in Fisher (1998) being incorrect (Fisher pers. comm.). This nest was considered unusual, particularly because of the nest site and nest appearance (see below). This led Fisher (2006) to speculate whether the Spectacled Weaver in the Okavango may be a different species. In this paper I propose to show that the variation described is within the normal limits of variability in weaver nest sites and nest structures.

Results

An extensive search for nest details of Spectacled Weaver nests was made in the literature, although probably not all references have been found.

Nest sites

Fisher (1998, 2006) describes the nest site as being unusual, because it was attached to reeds rather than to a twig of a tree. As mentioned by Fisher, this species has been recorded nesting in reeds in Zimbabwe (Priest 1936) and in Lake Kivu in DRC (Collias & Collias 1964). An additional record is by the Pretoria Bird Club on 10

November 2001 of a male building a nest in reeds near Bronkhorstspuit in Gauteng, South Africa (Leinberger & Marx 2001). Sclater (1911) listed twigs and bamboos as nest sites without further details, based on Claude Grant's field notes. Elephant grass was recorded as a nest site by Collias & Collias (1964) and Bannerman (1949). Many of these references did not state if the nest was suspended from the tip of the reed or grass, or attached by its side. Many weavers nest in trees or reeds, and nests in reeds are either suspended or attached (pers. obs.). There is an example of a Spectacled Weaver nest being attached to the bottom of a previously built nest (McCulloch 1960). Thus Spectacled Weavers usually nest in trees but there are records of reed or grass (both are similar nest sites) from throughout its range and from each of the three subspecies (Fry & Keith 2004). Weavers are adaptable in choosing new nest sites, including man-made structures (see Oschadleus 2005), so deductions based on nest site need to be made with caution.

Nest appearance

Fisher (2006) describes the nest as slimmer and more finely woven than other nests he has seen. There are too

few measurements of Spectacled Weaver nests (Table 1) to make any significant deductions about variation in nest length, width and height. Fisher (1998, 2006) did not provide these measurements for his nest, so a “slimmer” appearance is of no value in proposing a new species. The nest materials used will have a large effect on the appearance of the nest. A few examples (of a much larger set I have for Spectacled Weaver nest materials) will suffice. Madge (1972) found a nest made of pine needles in Zambia. Haagner & Ivy (1907) and other authors, described nests made from red plant fibres, presumably giving the nest a reddish look. Skead (1953) describes several variations to the usual leaf blades from nests in the Eastern Cape: creeper tendrils with or without leaves (adds decorative effect), horse hair or cow tail hair, especially used in the tube, one nest built of only horse hair. None of these authors considered the possibility of new species based on nest appearance. In fact, Swynnerton (1907) reported a nest with an abnormal entrance tube that projected horizontally.

Nest tube dimensions

The length of the entrance tube of a Spectacled Weaver varies widely from no tube to 2.4 m long (Table 1); the variation of short to long tubes is found in West Africa (Bannerman 1949), East Africa (van Someren

1956) and southern Africa (Tarboton 2001). Van Someren (1956) noted one nest with a tube 8 feet long, but the birds used a hole in tube side, rather than flying the entire length of the tube. Fisher’s (1998, 2006) main argument is in the narrow entrance tube. Tube diameter seems to vary widely (Table 1). Similar to Fisher’s value of 40 mm is the value of 40-55 mm for four nests from Ngara, Cuanza Sul, Angola (Collias & Collias 1964). In southern Africa tubes are fairly narrow at 45 mm diameter (Tarboton 2001). Priest (1936) did not give values but noted that tube diameter in Spectacled Weaver nests was smaller than that in nests of Red-headed Weavers *Anaplectes melanotis* and Village Weavers *P. cucullatus*. Nests in Central Africa have wide tubes, allowing birds to pass each other inside the tube (Chapin 1954). This fact is quoted by Collias & Collias (1964), Fry & Keith (2004) and Fisher (2006): I have not found other original references referring to birds passing each other in the tube. There may be some small advantage in birds being able to pass each other, but a wide tube may also make predation easier. Thus Fisher’s single record of a narrow tube, and that only slightly narrower than southern African nest tubes, is insufficient evidence for a new species. It would certainly be interesting to obtain a large sample of nest measurements, particularly of

tube diameter, from many sites throughout the bird's range and correlate these measurements with environmental factors.

P. o. tenuirostris

Roberts (1935) noticed that a female specimen from Kabulabula, Chobe River had a more slender bill than other specimens in the Transvaal Museum, and suggested that the Upper Zambesi birds may belong to a different race. Thus Traylor (1964) described the race *P.o. tenuirostris* from Sepopa based on three female specimens. A male specimen, however, did not differ from *P.o. crocatus* (Traylor 1965). White (1967) doubted the validity of *P.o. tenuirostris*, Clancey (1980) accepted it, and Fry & Keith (2004) included it as a synonym of *P.o. crocatus*. There does not seem to have been any taxonomic work on this subspecies beyond Traylor's brief descriptions.

Conclusion

The nest site and nest characteristics of Fisher's Spectacled Weaver nest do not seem to be outside the range of variability for nests and sites throughout the bird's range. There is even doubt whether Spectacled Weavers in the Okavango area warrant subspecific recognition. Fisher (1998, 2006) does, however, raise the point that the weavers in this area should be studied further. The slightly smaller bill widths of females and slightly narrower nest entrances

may be found to be due to interesting environmental adaptations, and these are certainly worth investigating.

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Masked Weaver *Photographer: Chironi*

Inception in 2006 of a long-term project on the Botswana breeding population of Lappet-Faced Vultures *Torgos tracheliotos*: preliminary findings

Pete Hancock, Brian Bridges and Mark Muller
BirdLife Botswana

Summary

Aerial surveys were conducted in 2006 in parts of northern Botswana during the main breeding period of Lappet-faced Vultures *Torgos tracheliotos*, to census the number, distribution and preferred habitat of breeding pairs, and to verify the best time and methods to conduct future surveys. A measure of 2006 breeding success was obtained for some nests.

Introduction

The Lappet-faced Vulture *Torgos tracheliotos* is a globally vulnerable species according to BirdLife International (2000). In Botswana the species is widespread and known to breed here. Although the lack of basic information on this species was highlighted in Borello (1987), a paper which also summarized the distribution and breeding population data available for Botswana, the population status remains unknown (Borello & Borello 1997, Borello 2004).

Recently-commenced long-term studies aim to fill some of the gaps in our knowledge of the species. A start has been made to determine the

minimum size, distribution, and estimated breeding success rates of the Botswana Lappet-faced Vulture population. The logistics of ground searches were formidable. Not least, Lappet-faced Vultures build platform nests on the crown of flat-topped thorny trees and they are usually undetectable from the ground. Aerial surveys by fixed-wing aircraft were judged to be the most efficient and successful means of locating and recording breeding birds, as has been demonstrated in Namibia (P.H. Bridgeford, pers..comm.) and in the Kruger National Park, South Africa (Deacon 2004). Aerial surveys also meant that information on other breeding species, such as White-headed Vulture *Trigonoceps occipitalis*, could be accumulated.

This paper reports on aerial searches undertaken by the authors early in the 2006 Lappet-faced Vulture breeding season to census nests in various areas of northern Botswana. Although monitoring of breeding pairs is planned for the future, opportunistically some nests could be checked again when chicks were close to fledging. Consequently, a

preliminary measure of 2006 breeding success was obtained for some pairs.

Methods

Lappet-faced Vulture nests were located by reference to the BirdLife Botswana Nest Record Card Scheme, as captured into a database and updated by W.D. Borello (*in litt.*), and by conducting aerial searches using two light aircraft, such as has been done successfully in Namibia using a Cessna 172 and 182 (PM Bridgford, pers. comm.).

Areas of apparent importance for Lappet-faced Vulture occurrence were identified from the Bird Atlas of Botswana (Penry, 1994), and three of these areas were surveyed from the air during 2006, as follows:

- Linyanti Swamps Important Bird Area (IBA), comprising Controlled Hunting Areas NG 14, 15 and 16 (general co-ordinates S18.55808° E23.59858°). Ca. 40 hours flying time was spent surveying this area.
- Okavango Delta IBA (general co-ordinates S19.22333° E23.21790°). Aerial searches were conducted opportunistically throughout a core study area (specifically the wetland system with its associated woodlands). The Khwai drainage was most intensively covered (ca. 20 hours of flying).

- The Makgadikgadi IBA (general co-ordinates S20.47378° E25.13783°). Aerial searches were concentrated on the central Makgadikgadi including the Makgadikgadi Pans National Park where ca. 20 hours were spent flying. Ground nest searches were also conducted in the Sua Pan area (G. McCulloch, pers. comm.).

An AirCam and a Magni-Gyrocopter were used simultaneously for the aerial surveys, flying at approximately 70km per hour, 25m above ground level for an average of two hours in the early mornings and late afternoons when atmospheric conditions were optimal. Since both aircraft were two-seaters, the pilot and the observer looked for nests, with the observer recording the nest contents, tree species that the nest was in, nest location in the tree (approx. height above ground, whether on top of the canopy or below) and the geographical co-ordinates using a hand-held Global Positioning System (Garmin 296, set for WGS 84, and decimal degrees). Each nest was assigned a permanent number.

The three areas were surveyed early in the breeding season (August 2006), based on information from Skinner (1997) and again later before the juvenile birds fledged from the nest (November). Breeding success was

defined as the number of active nests (*i.e.* in which an egg was laid) from which a chick fledged or was very likely to fledge due to its large size when the nest was last checked).

Results

The Nest Record Card Scheme (NRCS) contained limited

information, mainly on several historical breeding localities. Those in northern Botswana were located and checked during the aerial survey. A few nest sites were still occupied by breeding pairs. They are included in Table 1 with the new nest sites found.

Table 1. Status of active Lappet-faced Vulture nests in northern Botswana in 2006.

Nest no.	Date 1	Date 2
LFV0007	Not checked	18/11/06 – adult and large chick seen on nest
LFV0031	24/8/06 – adult and 1 egg	Not relocated
LFV0032	23/8/06 – adult + small chick	11/11/06 – large chick near to fledging
LFV0033*	24/8/06 – adult + small chick	16/12/06 – half-grown chick on nest
LFV0034	24/8/06 – adult + small chick	11/11/06 – nest empty but well-used – chick could have fledged
LFV0036	19/8/06 – adult on nest	11/11/06 – nest empty (deteriorating?)
LFV0037	24/8/06 – adult + small chick	11/11/06 – large chick near to fledging
LFV0038	24/8/06 – adult in incubating position	11/11/06 – large chick near to fledging
LFV0039	Not checked	11/11/06 – large chick near to fledging
LFV0040	7/8/06 – adult on nest	Nov. 06 – nest empty - ? chick fledged
LFV0041	7/8/06 – adult on nest	Nov. 06 – nest empty - ? chick fledged
LFV0042	12/9/06 – adult on nest	Nov. 06 – nest empty - ? chick fledged
LFV0046	Not checked – located during aerial survey 2	11/11/06 – nest empty - ? chick fledged
LFV0047	Not checked – located during aerial survey 2	7/12/06 – large chick near to fledging

* Original chick on this nest apparently did not survive – a small chick was present on 11/11/06.

A minimum of 50% of the nests were successful in fledging a chick, but breeding success could be much higher due to the fact that some chicks may have fledged by November.

Some of the active nests monitored during this study were in close proximity – the three closest being 1.7km, 1.8km and 2.1km apart. The tree species chosen for nesting are shown in Table 2.



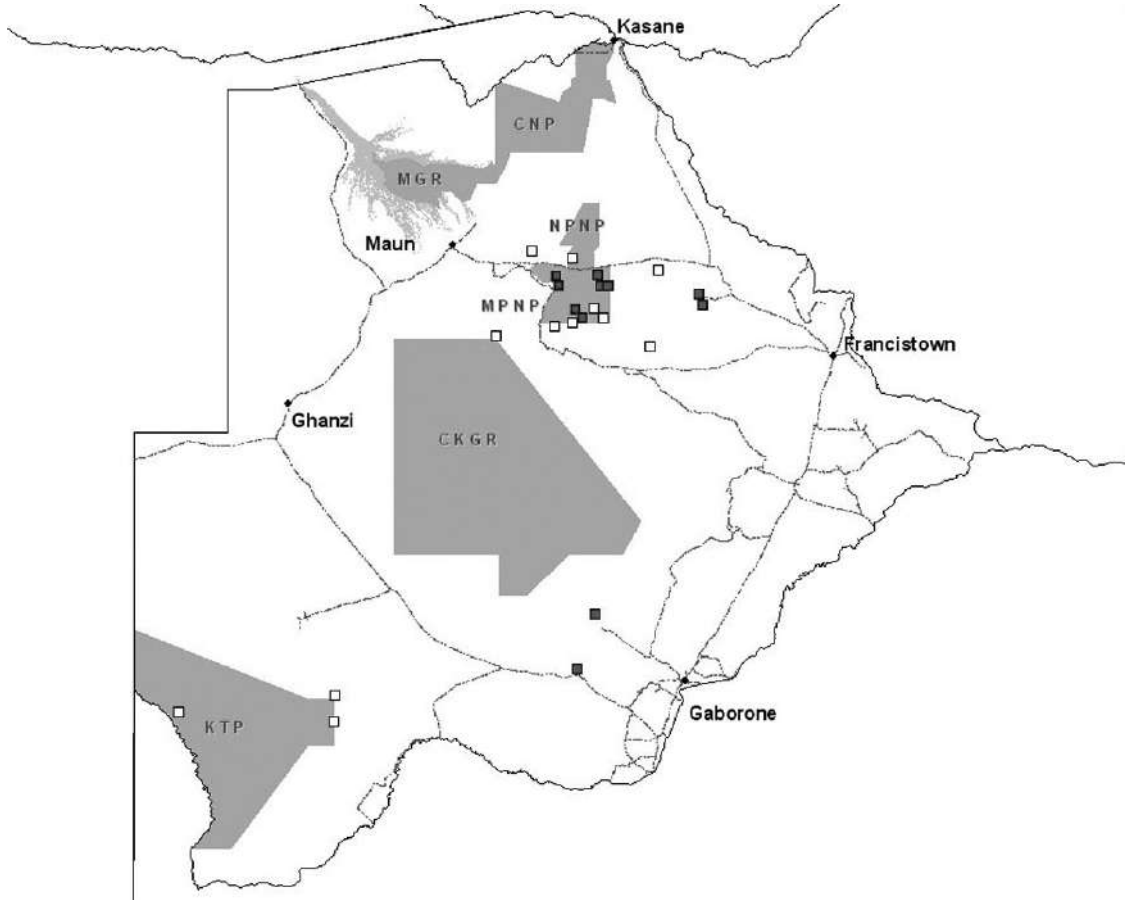


Figure 1. Distribution of known Lappet-faced Vulture nests in Botswana.
□ signifies nests monitored during this study ■ signifies nests used previously.

Table 2. Preferred nesting trees used by Lappet-faced Vultures

Tree species	Number	Percentage
<i>Terminalia prunioides</i>	7	33
<i>Acacia tortilis</i>	5	24
<i>Acacia erioloba</i>	4	19
<i>Acacia mellifera</i>	3	14
<i>Acacia luederitzii</i>	1	5
<i>Commiphora</i> sp.	1	6



Figure 2. Lappet-faced Vulture nest on *Acacia tortilis* tree in the Makgadikgadi (Photo: M Muller).

Discussion

Although the Lappet-faced Vulture is widespread throughout Botswana, with most historical sightings from Linyanti, the Deception and Okwa Valleys, Molopo Valley, Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park and Tuli Block (Penry 1994), it appears to prefer the remote semi-arid areas of the country for breeding. Although the sample size was small and biased by the limited areas surveyed and the availability of historical records, it appeared that the Makgadikgadi Basin is a favoured breeding area. Not a single nest was located in the Linyanti and Okavango IBAs (and nests are easily seen, see Fig 2) despite intensive coverage of these areas. Of the Makgadikgadi nests, 66% were inside the Makgadikgadi Pans National Park – the remainder were just to the east of the park boundary, to the west of the proposed Makgadikgadi veterinary fence which, when constructed, will afford them additional protection since they will effectively be included in the protected area.

One nest has subsequently fallen down. One pair apparently lost their chick (from nest no. LfV0033) but relaid and fledged the second chick. The half-grown chick seen on the nest on 16/12/2006 is unlikely to be the same small chick seen on 24/08/2006. One of the nests in the BirdLife Botswana Nest Record database

(LfV0027) had two eggs on 5/07/2003 (K Oake pers. comm.) but it is not clear whether these were from the same female or not; one egg had disappeared by 10/07/2003. This nest was no longer in use.

Mundy *et al.* (1992) stated that breeding success for this species, in four different African national parks, was remarkably similar, ranging from 40 to 50% - in total 123 young were thought to be successfully reared from 277 pair-years, a 44% success rate. For the Lappet-faced Vulture in Saudi Arabia, Newton & Shobrak (1993) recorded a breeding success of 66% from a small sample of six active nests in the Mahazat As-Said Reserve; this appeared to have been calculated in the same way as was done in this study *i.e.* number of active nests which resulted in a chick reaching fledging stage. When more information is available for Botswana, it will be interesting to compare data between the semi-arid regions and those in the subtropical zones, as well between other African breeding populations.

In the Makgadikgadi basin, *Terminalia prunioides*, *Acacia tortilis* and *A. mellifera* were the apparently preferred nesting trees (the records of *Acacia erioloba* being used are from the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park). This is consistent with the findings of Hustler and Howells (1988) and

Mundy *et al.* (1992) for southern Africa. Some of the active nests monitored during this study were in close proximity and this is not consistent with the suggestion by Mundy *et al.* (1992) that the Lappet-faced Vulture is territorial. Some unused Lappet-faced Vulture nests that were found in close proximity to active nests were alternative sites used by the pair. This may be an indication of the high attrition of nests (most of the historical northern Botswana nests in the database were found to no longer exist) and of a high fidelity to nest area.

Conclusion

The number of nests of Lappet-faced Vultures found in the 2006 breeding season in northern Botswana exceeds those previously located throughout the country since the inception of the NRCS in 1981. The results underline the value of aerial surveys in obtaining breeding population data for large raptor species. It has been shown that aerial surveys can also be of use in obtaining data on breeding success, particularly in remote areas where ground surveys are impractical. The preliminary findings of this long-term project have also shown that Botswana may have an important Lappet-faced Vulture breeding population and provide important food resources for other southern African populations.

Acknowledgements

The Director of the Department of Wildlife and National Parks, and Research Division staff in Ngamiland are thanked for their support of the project. We are also grateful to Wendy Borello for making several constructive improvements to the original manuscript.

Okavango Wilderness Safaris staff in Maun (Map Ives) and in the Linyanti Concession (Brian Rode, Wessel Steyn) were most helpful with logistics during survey work in the Linyanti area. Hola Ntsogotho and Inspector Makumbi from the Khwai Development Trust are also thanked for support of the work in Khwai. Glyn Maude provided logistical support for the work in the Makgadikgadi.

This work was funded by Ngami Toyota; without this financial support, the study would not have been possible.

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White-backed Vulture

*Photographer:
J. MacDonald*

Dusky Sunbirds *Cinnyris fusca* in southwestern Botswana

Chris A. Brewster

Dusky Sunbird *Cinnyris fusca* is an uncommon species – a Category B rarity – in Botswana. All records in recent years (since 1990) have been published in the regular summaries of Category B Records in *Babbler*. These are as follows:

- 1 at Bokspits (2620D), 01.05.91
- 2 at Red Rambuka Pan (2420C), 16.04.98
- 3 at Kolonkwaneng (2622C1), 06.12.98
- 1 at Bokspits (2620D3), 28.03.99
- 1 at Kolonkwaneng (2622C1), 14.08.99
- 1 at Bokspits (2620D), 15.08.99
- ca. 15 sightings in the Mosimane Pan/Hart Pan complex (2521A) of Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park, usually feeding on *Tapinanthus* sp. growing on *Acacia luederitzii* trees, mainly from February to April 2000
- 1 at Two Rivers (2620B3) in November 2000
- 1 35 km south of Tshabong (2622A), 16.08.01
- 1 between Groot Laagte and Qabo (2121A2), 28.08.06

With the exception of the last record, all records of Dusky Sunbird since 1990 have been in southwestern

Botswana, to the south of 24° S and to the west of 23° E. The record in 2121A2 on 28 August 2006 (Brewster 2007) is well north of the known range of Dusky Sunbird in Botswana.

A total of 30 records, all prior to 1990, in 13 different quarter degree squares, were available to Penry (1994). All these records are to the south of 24°S and to the west of 23°E apart from single records in quarter degree squares 2323C and 2523A.

Dusky Sunbird is a relatively inconspicuous species and is quite easily overlooked. Like other sunbirds it is restless and it is often first noticed when its distinctive light 'tchiff-tchiff' call is heard when it is flying from tree to tree. While male Dusky Sunbirds are relatively easy to identify, females and immatures can easily be confused with White-bellied Sunbirds *Cinnyris talatala*; they are most easily distinguished from White-bellied Sunbirds by their call. The distributional ranges of Dusky Sunbird and White-bellied Sunbird generally do not overlap in Botswana, though on 28 August 2006, between Groot Laagte and Qabo, both species were seen. The ranges of White-bellied Sunbird and Marico Sunbird

Cinnyris mariquensis do partly overlap in southwestern Botswana, but these two species are unlikely to be confused. Over most of its range in southwestern Botswana, Dusky Sunbird is generally the only sunbird species present.

In late April and early May 2007, a week's visit was made to southwestern Botswana. The route taken was from Khokotsha west along the cut-line to Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park (KTP), then along the northern boundary of KTP to the Swart pan area, then south along the Nossob Valley from Union End to Two Rivers and finally east from Two Rivers, via Khawa, to Middlepits and Tshabong. A total of 39 Dusky Sunbirds were seen in 13 different quarter degree squares, from 29 April to 5 May, along this route. The sightings are listed:

- 1 east of KTP along cut-line, (2422C4), 29 April
- 4 along northern boundary of KTP (2421D4), 30 April
- 1 on northern boundary of KTP (2421D1), 30 April
- 1 on northern boundary of KTP (2421C2), 30 April
- 5 at Khandu Pan (2420A4), 30 April
- 4 at Gnus-gnus Pan (2420C1), 1 May
- 2 between Gnus-gnus Pan and Swart Pan (2420A3), 1 May
- 1 at Swart Pan (2420A1), 1 May
- 2 at Swart Pan (2420A1), 2 May

- 1 south of Swart Pan along KTP boundary (2420A3), 2 May
- 1 north of Union End (2420C1), 2 May
- 1 in Nossob Valley south of Nossob Camp, flew from Botswana (2520D1), 2 May
- 1 in Nossob valley, near Rooiputs (2620B2), 2 May
- 4 in Nossob Valley, north of Two Rivers (2620B3), 3 May
- 2 at Two Rivers (2620B3), 4 May
- 2 at Strussendam (2620D1), 4 May
- 1 between Khawa and Middlepits (2621A4), 5 May
- 4 around Middlepits (2621D4), 5 May
- 1 in Molopo Valley, northeast of Kolonkwaneng (2622A3), 5 May

In addition, a Dusky Sunbird was seen 1 km south of Union End on the South African side of the Nossob Valley.

These sightings indicate that Dusky Sunbird was quite widespread and common in southwestern Botswana in late April and early May 2007. It was notable, though, that no Dusky Sunbirds were seen on the open duneveld between Two Rivers and Khawa. The vegetation on the open duneveld of extreme southwest Botswana, around Bokspits, is composed primarily of shrubby grassland with very few developed trees; this habitat is possibly not

favoured by Dusky Sunbirds. A few Marico Sunbirds were seen along the northern boundary in quarter degree square 2421D, but no other sunbirds, apart from Dusky Sunbird, were seen elsewhere.

The number of records of Dusky Sunbird since 1990 is relatively small. Visits of several days to southwestern Botswana can produce no records at all. For example, a week spent in southwestern Botswana in April 2002 did not produce a single record. A week's visit there in April 1998 produced only a single record, of two birds seen at Red Rambuka Pan on 16 April 1998. Both of these visits were in years of good rainfall. This lack of records on extended visits to the area, together with the small number of records since 1990, indicates too that the species is generally uncommon. The large number of records in April to May 2007 is, therefore, likely to be a result of an influx to the area.

The southwest of Botswana appeared to be relatively dry, in comparison to previous visits to the area at the same time of year, in late April and early May 2007. There had, though, been some recent rain in the Mabuasehube area, where there was some green grass and flowering shrubs, and around Two Rivers there had also been recent rainfall as, in places, there were large pools of water along the Nossob Valley. Dusky Sunbirds,

however, were recorded throughout the area, not only in areas where there had been recent rainfall but also in areas, such as around Swart Pan and Union End, which appeared very dry and probably had received little rainfall in the preceding summer. Their presence did not appear to be related to recent rainfall; nor did it appear to be related to the availability of nectar at flowering plants, as there were few or no available flowers in much of the area. Most birds were seen foraging in the foliage of trees, presumably searching for insects rather than nectar. Fry & Keith (2000) stated that insects may feature in the diet of Dusky Sunbirds to a greater extent than in most other sunbirds.

Dusky Sunbird is known to wander in the non-breeding season (Penry 1994). It is a species that is confined to the arid areas of southern Africa, where there is only sparse and erratic rainfall. Like many species that inhabit the arid parts of southern Africa, it is prone to nomadic movements. Its presence in large numbers in southwestern Botswana in April and May 2007 was probably due to such a nomadic movement. The extent and seasonality of such movements into Botswana, and how regularly they occur, is not currently known. Observers are encouraged to submit all records of this species in order that more is learnt about its status in Botswana.

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NOTES

Swamp Boubous away from the Okavango Delta

I was surprised to see Swamp Boubous *Laniarius bicolor* at Nxai Pan in late 2006. Ali Flatt also saw the pair at Nxai Pan some two weeks after I saw them there at S19° 56' 14'' E24° 46' 32'' at an elevation of 3048 ft. I am mystified about the Nxai Pan pair as the area is so arid.

I also saw Swamp Boubous at Savuti Safari Lodge (Desert & Delta Safaris) at S18° 33'52'' E24 ° 03'37.5'' at an elevation of 3075 ft. The pair at

Mosque Swallows breeding in the Linyanti Concession

Towards the end of April 2007 I was travelling in mopane woodlands on

Savuti bred and had a chick. I suspect the Savuti birds are a "left over" from the time when the channel was flowing and supported the right sort of boubou habitat. I saw them every day between 16 and 20 February 2007, but they are apparently permanently there as the local guides say they are resident in the area.

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the northern bank of the Savuti Channel in NG15 – Linyanti Concession in northern Botswana. As I was passing a dry seasonal pan I noticed a Mosque Swallow *Hirundo senegalensis* on a thin branch at the top of a large Leadwood tree *Combretum imberbe* that was growing at the edge of the pan. I stopped to take a photo of the swallow, as it is not a common bird in

the area. It was quite distinctive from its relative the Red-breasted Swallow *H. semirufa* that we also see on occasion in the concession, by the pale, creamy-white throat and underwing coverts (when seen in flight).

As I was watching it a second swallow arrived and perched near the first. The second bird then took off, calling and headed to a large horizontal branch ca. 6-7 m above ground level. It then entered a small hole (similar to that of a woodpecker or barbet) on the underside of the branch. The other swallow then took off, calling as it flew and headed away. After a few seconds the swallow that had entered the hole flew out and headed in the direction that the other swallow had flown.

A few days later I returned to the spot and waited for the birds to arrive. After a few minutes I heard them calling and then they arrived back at the Leadwood tree. They were both carrying food items (small insects?) in their beaks. They took it in turns to enter the nest and when the second adult took off out of the hole it was carrying what seemed to be a faecal pellet, suggesting that there were chicks in the nest. The two adults continued to fly out to hunt and would return back to the nest approximately every 15 minutes, calling as they arrived back, and taking it in turns to feed the chicks

while the other remained outside the nest keeping watch. Since the end of April I have not been back to the spot and therefore do not know whether the chicks survived or how many there were.

Brian Rode, *Wilderness Safaris - Duma Tau Camp, Private Bag X14, Maun*

Editor: There are very few breeding records of this species in Botswana. Skinner (1995) (N.J. Skinner 1995. The breeding seasons of birds in Botswana 1. passerine families. Babbler 29-30:9-23) noted just two records – one in February and Huw Penry's April record. On 26 May 2000 Mosque Swallows were seen by me in the same area as noted by Brian Rode, entering a nest hole in a Mopane Colophospermum mopane tree between Savuti and the Linyanti, some 13 km south of the DWNP camp – see Category B records in Babbler 37, page 66.

Fiscal Shrike and nesting Ayres's Hawk Eagle in Maun

Ali and I had driven back from Johannesburg on 7 August, getting in quite late. Next morning the dogs were extremely demanding of their early morning walk, so at a slightly more leisurely than usual time we set off up the river.

On the way upriver we bumped into our three resident Ground Hornbills *Bucorvus leadbeateri* that have been patrolling the river on most of my recent morning walks. On our way home Ali and I were chatting when, about 400m from home in the *Acacia erioloba* and *A.tortilis* thorn scrub at the edge of the flood plain, where there were 'stacks' of little birds feeding on the ground and off insects at the edge of the water, we flushed a small slim looking shrike that I knew had to be a Fiscal *Lanius collaris*. I said "Did you see that?" and took off after the bird leaving Ali wondering just what exactly "that" was. I soon re-located the bird and Ali volunteered to stay and watch it while I shot home to get the camera.

As I approached my front gate I noted the regular Ayres Hawk Eagle *Hieraaetus ayresii* patrolling slowly along the large riparian trees about

300m downriver of my house. As I watched the bird it repeatedly dipped down into the top of the canopy of the Strangling Fig trees that had quite bare top branches. I initially thought it was flush-hunting but the bird's flight was far too lazy for that of a hunting bird and I then realized that it was in fact trying to break off nesting material from the bare topmost branches of the trees. This bird is, as I have suspected for a long time, nesting somewhere close by. I was torn by the desire to watch the eagle or go and photograph the Fiscal.

As the photos show, the Fiscal won the day and after about 40 minutes of stalking I had managed to get a couple of nice clear shots of the bird. The bird is of the *subcoronatus* race, clearly showing the white supercilium above the eye. Ali and I have seen this race of Fiscal before in the deserts of Namibia. This is another wonderful record for the garden and river walk. The Ayre's Eagle observation is of real interest too and I will do my best to try and establish if the bird is indeed breeding somewhere along the river.

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Editor: Fiscal Shrikes are frequent in southeast and southwest Botswana but scarce further north.

Records of Mountain Pipit *Anthus hoeschi* in the Kalahari

Mountain Pipit is a breeding summer visitor to the Drakensberg - Maluti Mountains, with the bulk of the population occurring in Lesotho, primarily above 2000 m (Peacock 2006). The non-breeding range is poorly known but is believed to be on the Zambezi-Zaire watershed in DRC, north-western Zambia and possibly in eastern Angola. In the non-breeding range they inhabit moist grasslands and dambos. It is likely that they occur on passage in Botswana, though, until recently, the only acceptable record has been of four birds collected at Francistown between 14 and 22 October 1965 (Penry 1994).

In the late afternoon of 28 April 2001 four unusual pipits were seen at Monamodi Pans in the Mabuasehube section of Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park, in square 2522A1. The four pipits frequented the margins of one of the pans where there were shrubs and low bushes, rather than the open pan. Their plumage, bare part colouration, call and behaviour were slightly different to those of the African Pipits *Anthus cinnamomeus* that were also present at the same locality. As these pipits were clearly of interest, they were observed for 30 minutes and detailed notes were

made. The four pipits were still present the next morning, when viewing conditions were better, so they were watched for another 45 minutes.

On the following day, 30 April 2001, about six more similar pipits were seen further north at Masetleng Pan, in square 2320B2. Again the birds were seen amongst shrubs and low bushes on the margin of the large pan and were in the company of African Pipits. Masetleng Pan is not within a game reserve or national park so it was easier to observe the birds there than at Monamodi Pans, where there are restrictions on walking. About three hours were spent stalking and observing the pipits and more detailed notes were made.

The unusual pipits that were observed at both localities were not easy to distinguish from African Pipits. It was only with considerable effort that it was possible to identify them. The pipits were distinguished from the African Pipits by their slightly heavier build and larger size, their slightly longer and heavier bill, the pinkish-based (not yellowish) lower mandible, the slightly more noticeably streaked darker breast and upperparts, the whitish buff (not pure white) outer tail feathers, their absence of tail 'pumping' and, lastly, their flight calls which were of a similar structure, but of a slightly different pitch, to African Pipits.

After watching them carefully for 3 - 4 hours I was able to positively identify the pipits as Mountain Pipits.

These records of Mountain Pipit at Monamodi Pans and Masetleng Pan were submitted to the Records Subcommittee of BirdLife Botswana. As the members of the subcommittee were not sufficiently familiar with the species and, as there were no previously accepted sight records of the species, the records were referred to outside referees. The records were accepted by the late Richard Liversedge, who was familiar with the species on passage at Kimberley in the Northern Cape Province of South Africa. Despite a great deal of effort being made, it was not possible to find another referee who was familiar with the species. As the protocol of the Records Subcommittee requires that a record that is referred needs to be accepted by two outside referees before it can be accepted, a decision on the record was deferred. However, in 2006, the records were referred to Faansie Peacock and he duly accepted them. They were then accepted by the Records Subcommittee as the first sight records of Mountain Pipit in Botswana (Brewster 2007).

There have been two subsequent sightings of Mountain Pipit. On 25 November 2001 Richard Randall saw 16 to 18 Mountain Pipits in grassland

at Lake Ngami in Ngamiland. On 19 December 2004 the writer saw two Mountain Pipits at Khanke Pan, in the southern part of Central Kalahari Game Reserve, in square 2324A1. Both of these records have now been accepted by the Records Subcommittee (see pages 42-44).

These four records of Mountain Pipits all presumably refer to passage migrants. The birds seen at Monamodi Pans and Masetleng Pans in late April were presumably on northbound passage. The birds seen in late November at Lake Ngami and in December at Khanke Pan were presumably on southbound passage to their breeding grounds. The date of the sighting, 19 December, at Khanke Pan is particularly late in the season for birds that are migrating southwards to their breeding grounds in the Drakensberg - Maluti Mountains.

The three sightings in the central and southern Kalahari all occurred at localities where there had been good recent rainfall resulting in fresh plant growth. The pipits were seen at the three localities foraging amongst shrubs and low bushes. Pipits are primarily insectivorous and, following good rainfall, there was presumably no shortage of suitable food at these localities. Visits to these localities and other Kalahari pans in April and May in different years,

when conditions were drier, have produced neither records of Mountain Pipits nor of large numbers of African Pipits such as were present at Monamodi Pans and Masetleng Pans in April 2001. For example, a week was spent in the southern Kalahari, and several pans were visited, in late April and early May 2007, but not a single pipit, of any species, was seen. Mountain Pipits, and other pipits for that matter, are, therefore, more likely to be seen on passage in the Kalahari when recent rainfall provides the suitable conditions for them.

Mountain Pipits are not easy birds to identify, though it is possibly easier to identify them than to distinguish between Plain-backed Pipits *Anthus leucophrys* and Buffy Pipits *Anthus vaalensis*, both of which occur commonly in Botswana. Our knowledge of the distribution of pipits, other than African Pipit, in Botswana, is probably less than for any other group of birds, due to the difficulties in identifying them. Any observer who is prepared to spend time in the field looking at pipits in Botswana is likely to add to our knowledge of them.

I would like to thank Faansie Peacock for taking the time to look through these Mountain Pipit records and commenting on them.

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Feeding behaviour of Ashy Tit *Parus cinerascens*

On 6 May 2007 a group of BirdLife Botswana members was walking up the dry, sandy watercourse of the Metsemaswane River at the Lion Park, near Gaborone. What sounded like a woodpecker quietly drumming was heard from the riverine woodland on the bank of the river. When the source of the drumming was investigated, it transpired that instead of being made by a woodpecker the drumming noise was actually being made by an Ashy Tit *Parus cinerascens*. The tit was perched overhead on a branch of a Russet Bushwillow *Combretum hereroense*.

It was holding a dry fruit of the Russet Bushwillow between its feet and was pecking at the fruit. This pecking was making the drumming

noise. From time to time, the drumming ceased and the bird let the fruit drop to the ground. The bird would then find another fruit and start pecking at that. On the ground were several of the fruits, each with a small hole that had been made by the bird pecking at them.

It was not clear whether the bird was pecking at the fruit to obtain a seed inside it, or whether the bird was looking for something else. Daphne Goldsworthy found a fruit on the ground that did not have a hole in it. It was agreed that the fruit should be cut open to see what was inside it. When the fruit was cut open a small larva was found inside. Evidently this

larva was what the Ashy Tit was opening the fruit to get.

Fry & Keith (2000) stated that Ashy Tit feeds mainly on lepidopteran caterpillars and pupae. In Namibia, nestling diet is almost exclusively lepidopteran larvae and pupae. There is no mention in Keith & Fry of a bird opening a fruit, by pecking a hole in it, to obtain a larva.

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Look out for colour-ringed Red-footed Falcons

In the northern summer Red-footed Falcons *Falco vespertinus* migrate south from central and eastern Europe into Africa, some visiting Botswana. In their breeding quarters in Hungary, some 1,000 Red-footed Falcons were fitted with colour rings with individual combinations in 2007 as part of a LIFE Nature project. The main aim is to estimate post-migration mortality and emigration.

Peter Fehervari of BirdLife Hungary also hopes to get additional information on the migration routes of the species. If you spot a Red-footed Falcon please carefully check its legs. Eight colours have been used - black, white, red, orange, yellow, green, blue and mauve (purple) with a metal ring. Please contact Peter Fehervari if you see a marked bird (Email: fpeter17@gmail.com).

Report from the Records Subcommittee Category A Records

The following substantiated records were assessed by Chris A. Brewster, Andrew Hester, Mark Muller, Huw Penry, Richard D. Randall and Stephanie J. Tyler. Records were accepted either on the basis of majority vote or favourable reports from referees. Observers did not vote on their own records.

Species	Square	Date	Comments
Corn Crake <i>Crex crex</i>	2425D4	25.11.05	One at Ngotwane (C.A.Brewster).
Corn Crake <i>Crex crex</i>	1923C4	Dec. 2005	One photographed at Maun (U.Franke).
Baillon's Crake <i>Porzana pusilla</i>	2127B1	23.01.06	One at Francistown S.P. (N.Bousfield). Fifth accepted record for Botswana
Striped Crake <i>Aenigmatolimnas marginalis</i>	1923C4	15.03.06	One female photographed near Maun (M.Muller).
Common Redshank <i>Tringa tetanus</i>	1923D3	14.07.05	One at lagoon near Matsibe River (R.Hearn, S.J.Tyler).
Terek Sandpiper <i>Xenus cinereus</i>	2127A4	13.05.05	One at Shashe Dam (P.D'Arcy)
Red Phalarope <i>Phalaropus fulicaria</i>	1924D	21.01.06	One photographed at Nxai Pan (N.Polenakis). Fourth accepted record for Botswana.
Lesser Black-backed Gull <i>Larus fuscus</i>	2026C1	18.01.00	One at Sua Spit (R & V.Lovett)
Lesser Black-backed Gull <i>Larus fuscus</i>	2026A3	23-24.07.05	Two at Nata (R.Coomber)
Lesser Black-backed Gull <i>Larus fuscus</i>	2022B4	29.08.06	Four immatures at Lake Ngami (C.A.Brewster)
African Cuckoo Hawk <i>Aviceda cuculoides</i>	1824A3	16.08.05	One adult at Chobe Forest Reserve (C.A.Brewster)
European Honey-buzzard <i>Pernis apivorus</i>	2425B4	05.03.06	One over Kopong Hills (C.A.Brewster)

Species	Square	Date	Comments
Jackal Buzzard <i>Buteo rufofuscus</i>	2525B1	21.05.06	One adult at Otse (I.Draycott)
Bokmakerie <i>Telephorus zeylonus</i>	2525D1	24.12.02	Pair heard duetting near Ramatlabama (A.Hester). Fifth accepted record for Botswana
Bokmakerie <i>T. zeylonus</i>	2525D1	11.01.06	Pair heard calling at Tlharaselele (C.A.Brewster)
Bokmakerie <i>T. zeylonus</i>	2525A4	11.01.06	Pair heard calling at Kgoro Pan (C.A.Brewster).
Bokmakerie <i>T. zeylonus</i>	2525B3	11.03.06	Pairs heard calling at two locations near Pitsane (C.A.Brewster)
Bokmakerie <i>T. zeylonus</i>	2525A4	02.04.06	Pair heard calling at Kgoro Pan (M.Goldsworthy, H.Hester).
Bokmakerie <i>T. zeylonus</i>	2525A4	16.07.06	Immature at Kgoro Pan (C.A.Brewster).
River Warbler <i>Locustella fluviatillis</i>	2127B1	28.01.06	One trapped at Francistown (N.Bousefield).
Cloud Cisticola <i>Cisticola textrix</i>	2525D1	11.01.06	One seen in display flight near Tlharaselele (C.A.Brewster). First accepted record for Botswana.
Cloud Cisticola <i>Cisticola textrix</i>	2525B3	11.03.06	Three seen in display flight near Pitsane (C.A.Brewster).
Melodious Lark <i>Mirafra cheniana</i>	2525D1	11.01.06	One near Tlharaselele (C.A.Brewster). Third accepted record for Botswana.
Melodious Lark <i>Mirafra cheniana</i>	2525B3	11.03.06	Eight near Pitsane (C.A.Brewster)
Mountain Pipit <i>Anthus hoeschi</i>	2022B4	25.11.01	16 to 18 in grassland at Lake Ngami (R.D.Randall). Fourth accepted record for Botswana.

Species	Square	Date	Comments
Mountain Pipit <i>A. hoeschi</i>	2324A1	19.12.04	Two at Khanke Pan, Central Kalahari Game Reserve (C.A.Brewster).
Bushveld Pipit <i>Anthus caffer</i>	2425D3	30.09.05	Three on Lokgokgotho Hills (C.A.Brewster).
Bushveld Pipit <i>Anthus caffer</i>	2425C4	05.08.06	One photographed near Ranaka (I.Draycott).
Red-headed Quelea <i>Quelea erythrops</i>	1823B4	April 2005	One male photographed at edge of Linyanti River (B.Rode). Second record away from Kasane area.

Records not accepted

Common Redshank *Tringa tetanus* at Lake Ngami, 13 September 2004

Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos* at Stanley's Camp, southwest Okavango, 13 March 2005

Long-legged Buzzard *Buteo rufinus* near Lake Ngami, 4 December 2005.

Record reviewed

A record of Cape Bunting at Nxai Pan on 28 March 1992, that had been previously accepted, was reviewed. After review, this record is no longer considered acceptable.

Correction

In the last report on Category 'A' records in *Babbler* 50, it was stated that there are two specimens of Angola Swallow *Hirundo angolensis*. This is incorrect; there are no specimens of Angola Swallow.

Chris A. Brewster, Records Subcommittee, BirdLife Botswana

Summary of Category B Records

Compiled by
Chris A. Brewster and Stephanie J. Tyler

All records refer to the period November 2006 to October 2007 unless otherwise stated. For species on the 'B' List, please see *Babbler* 40: 57-58 or visit BirdLife Botswana's website. The order of species given below follows the new *Roberts' Birds of southern Africa*.

FULVOUS DUCK *Dendrocygna bicolor*

Away from the northern wetlands, one was at Bokaa Dam on 21 Jan and two there on 22 July (CAB) and three at Sua Spit on 11 Feb (GMcC).

WHITE-BACKED DUCK *Thalassornis leuconotus*

There were 831 on the Boteti River from the Thamalakane divide down to Tsibogo la matabele and 204 on the Thamalakane River from the Boro confluence down to the Boteti during Jan (HB, FB, PH, TM, ZM *et al.*)

AFRICAN BLACK DUCK *Anas sparsa*

Three were at Bokaa Dam on 21 Jan and four at Nnywane Dam on 14 June (CAB, MB). Two were seen at Shashe Dam on five occasions in 2006 and 2007 (PF).

MACCOA DUCK *Oxyura maccoa*

Summer counts (2006/2007) included 55 at Jwaneng S.P. on 3 Jan, 19 at Mogobane on 2 Feb, 16 at Ramotswa S.P. on 3 Feb and one at Moshupa Dam on 21 Jan (HH, MB, DG, MGG).

In the 2007 winter 32 were counted at Nnywane Dam on 23 May but only two there on 14 June (MB); 17 were at Bokaa Dam on 22 July (CAB).

COMMON CUCKOO *Cuculus canorus*

Noted at Dopotta in the Tuli Block on 6 Jan (JvZ).

GIANT KINGFISHER *Megaceryle maxima*

One was at Nnywane Dam on 14 June – regular there (MB). Regularly recorded too t Ngotwane from March to June (HH). One was on the Metsemaswaane River at Ngotwane on 3 Oct (CAB).

AFRICAN PYGMY-KINGFISHER *Ispidina picta*

One was photographed at Atholl Holme KO, Gaborone on 31 Dec 2006 (WDB & RMB).

GREY-HEADED KINGFISHER *Halcyon leucocephala*

Two were seen at Dopotta in the Tuli Block on 30 Dec 2006 (JvZ), one near Kazungula in early Jan 2007 (AB, PR *et al.*) and two on the Jao Flats on 27 Jan (KB, WS, JN, JT, DM).

DENHAM'S BUSTARD *Neotis denhami*

One was seen at Savuti Marsh in mid Aug 2007 (RDR).

WATTLED CRANE *Grus carunculatus*

Some 56 were noted on the Jao Flats on 27 Jan (KB, WS, JN, JT, DM). Five pairs and a non-breeding flock of 14 birds were found in late June in the Linyanti (MM & BB). Ten were noted on Jao Flats on 17 July, 36 on the Boro River between Tsau Island on the upper reaches and the buffalo fence to the south and 18 on the Boteti River below Samedupi (PH, TM *et al.*). Two were by the Okavango River between Shakawe and Mohembo on 27 July and 7 Aug (JaB, PS).

GREY CROWNED CRANE *Balearica regulorum*

There were 12 at Nata Sanctuary on 30 Jan and two at Sua Spit on 11 Feb (GMcC, AF, MM, RDR). Birds were also seen at Kazuma Pan on 31 Jan and at Savuti waterhole on the western side of Savuti Marsh on 6 Feb (MM, AF, RDR).

AFRICAN CRAKE *Crex egregia*

One was seen near Kazungula in early Jan 2007 (AB, PR *et al.*), nine along the Chobe floodplain between Kasane and Ngoma Bridge on 27 Jan (AF, MM, RDR) and two on the Jao Flats on 27 Jan (KB, WS, JN, JT, DM). In early August one was by the Okavango River near Shakawe (PS).

ALLEN'S (LESSER) GALLINULE *Porphyrola alleni*

One was seen along the Thamalakane River on 6 Jan (HB, FB), one on the Chobe River in Kasane on 27 Jan (MvV), four on the Khwai River on 27 Jan (TM, ZM, MMak, JK) and one on the Boteti River near Xobe on 2 Jan (TM, ZM, KB, JK).

WHITE-FRONTED PLOVER *Charadrius marginatus*

Two were at Bokaa Dam on 21 Jan (CAB); one at Lake Ngami in the second week of Jan (AB, PR *et al.*); eight at Maun S.P. on 17 Jan (RDR), one at Shashe Dam on 24 June (PD'A, GB, NB) and one on 30 Sept again at Bokaa Dam (CAB).

CHESTNUT-BANDED PLOVER *Charadrius pallidus*

The only sightings were at Nata Delta where there were 14 on 30 Jan and at Sua Spit where there were eight on 11 Feb; 52 at at Nata Delta on 4 Aug (GMcC).

GREY PLOVER *Pluvialis squatarola*

One was seen at Bokaa Dam on 22 July and three on 30 Sept (CAB).

GREEN SANDPIPER *Tringa ochropus*

One was reported from Dopotta, Tuli Block on 5 Jan 2006 (JvZ) and one at Gamoleele Dam on 21 Jan 2007 (DG, MGG).

SANDERLING *Calidris alba*

On 4 Aug NB and GMcC counted 22 at Nata Delta.

BLACK-TAILED GODWIT *Limosa limosa*

In the southern Okavango Delta (in 1923C4) 14 were seen on 26 and 27 Dec 2006 by RDR and 10 at Lake Ngami in the second week of Jan (AB, PR *et al.*).

RUDDY TURNSTONE *Arenaria interpres*

One was at Bokaa Dam on 2 Sept and 30 Sept (CAB)

THREE-BANDED COURSER *Rhinoptilus cinctus*

One was seen on a night drive at Dopotta in the Tuli Block in early Jan (JvZ).

BLACK-WINGED PRATINCOLE *Glareola nordmanni*

There was a count of 210 at Bokaa Dam on 21 Jan (CAB) and over 1000 at Lake Ngami in the second week of Jan (AB, PR *et al.*).

CASPIAN TERN *Hydroprogne caspia*

Two were at Nata Delta on 30 Jan and one at Sua Spit on 11 Feb (GMcC). Two were also seen at Shashe Dam on 30 Sept (PF).

AFRICAN SKIMMER *Rynchops flavirostris*

Eight were at Lake Ngami on 10 Jan 2007 (PR, AB). A flock of 38 was seen on the Boteti River on 28 Jan between Xaega and Tsibogo- la-matabele (TM, ZM *et al.*) but only one was seen, just above Xaega, on 27 July. Two were noted on the Okavango River between Shakawe and Mohembo on 11 June (PN, MA, SH) and on the same stretch 94 were seen on 27 July (JaB) and 37 on 7 Aug and between Shakawe and Palm Island two on 8 Aug (PS). On the Chobe River 42 were seen on 22 July between Kasane and Ihaha (MV, KH, LF). In early August 15 were seen at Nxamaseri of which three, possibly four pairs had nests with eggs (AN).

HOODED VULTURE *Necrosyrtes monachus*

Three were seen along the Linyanti riverfront (1823B) on 29 June (AF).

CAPE VULTURE *Gyps coprotheres*

About 60 were seen at Mannyelanong Hil on 31 May (PN, MA, SH), seven were at Ngotwane on 30 Apr (MMG) and 10 near Nnywane Dam on 14 June (MB). Two were seen near Kasane on 20 Oct (PF).

LAPPET-FACED VULTURE *Aegypius tracheliotos* (see also pages 23-30)**Other Lappet-faced Vulture records in 2007:**

No. birds	Date	Location	Comments	Obs.
1	30 Jan	Nata Sanctuary		GMcC
1	2 Jan	Dopotta, Tuli Block	Circling overhead	JvZ
2	10 March	Jwaneng		MGG
2	28 April	Gasita (2524B2)		CAB
1	30 April	Northern boundary of KTP (2421C1)	overhead	CAB
3	30 April	Sizatswe Pan (2420A4)		CAB
2	6 May	Lion Park, near Gaborone	overhead	BLB
1	6 May	Tachila N.R., Francistown	overhead	NB, GB
1 adult	June	Linyanti	Feeding on Giraffe carcasse	MM, BB
2 ad + 1 imm	2 June	North of Serowe on Kama R.S. road	Feeding on dead donkey with many White-backed Vs.	PN, MA, SH
1	7 June	Tachila Reserve, Francistown	In flight	PN, NB
1	7 July	Dithopo		CAB
2	10 Sept	Kang	Feeding on dead cow	DMcC
1	13 Oct	Matswere (CKGR)	At nest	JR

WHITE-HEADED VULTURE *Trigonoceps occipitalis*

One active nest found in Linyanti in June 2007 (MM, BB).

BAT HAWK *Macheiramphus alcinus*

A pair was located in the Linyanti in late June (MM, AF, BB & DB).

LONG-CRESTED EAGLE *Lophaetus occipitalis*

One was by the Okavango River near Shakawe on 7 Aug (PS).

LESSER SPOTTED EAGLE *Aquila pomarina*

One was noted near Nata in early Jan (AB, PR).

BOOTED EAGLE *Hieraetus pennatus*

One at Bokaa Dam on 21 Jan (CAB), one at Selinda on 16 Feb (MV) and one at Lake Ngami on 29 June (PH)

BLACK SPARROWHAWK *Accipter melanoleucus*

Several sightings were made in SE Botswana. These include a single bird seen regularly at Ngotwane from March to May, one seen at Bathoen Dam on 7 April, one over the

escarpment north of Mogobane Dam on 17 April and one at Kgale Siding on 28 August (CAB, MGG). A pair bred near Kgale Siding; three chicks were reared (MpB).

AFRICAN MARSH-HARRIER *Circus ranivorus*

The only record away from the Okavango was of a one at Nata Sactuary on 30 Jan (GMcC, MM, RDR *et al.*).

WESTERN (EUROPEAN) MARSH HARRIER *Circus aeruginosus*

A male was seen at Lake Ngami in early Jan (AB, PR *et al.*) and two were reported from Nata Sanctuary on 30 Jan (AF, MM, RDR, GMcC).

MONTAGU'S HARRIER *Circus pygargus*

Four were noted at Nata Sanctuary in early Jan (AB, PR *et al.*). Please look out for colour wing-tagged harriers in Botswana.

PALLID HARRIER *Circus macrourus*

One was reported from Sua Spit on 11 Feb (McC).

OSPREY *Pandion haliaetus*

One was on the Okavango River between Mohembo and Shakawe on 11 June and on 7 Aug (PN, MA, SH, PS).

PEREGRINE FALCON *Falco peregrinus*

One was reported from near Francistown in early Jan (AB, PR *et al.*), one on the Chobe River near Kasane on 27 Jan (MvV) and two were seen in Chobe N.P. in early Feb (AF, M, RDR).

GREAT CRESTED GREBE *Podiceps cristatus*

One was at Mogobane Dam on 2 Feb (DG, MGG) but no others were reported in SE Botswana during the summer AfWC counts. Three were at Mogobane Dam on 15 April (CAB) and a pair was seen on Nnywane Dam on 23 May (MB). On 22 July at Bokaa Dam 29 were counted (CAB).

BLACK HERON *Egretta ardesiaca*

Southeast counts include two at Ngotwane Dam on 2 Jan, two at Bokaa Dam on 21 Jan and two at Gamoleele Dam on 21 Jan and one at Phakalane on 4 Feb (HH, CAB, DG, MGG). Two were also seen at Shashe Dam on 23 Sept 2007 and one on 10 Dec 2006 (PF).

SLATY EGRET *Egretta vinaceigula*

Widely reported in early 2007 in ones and twos but nine were seen at Gcobega Lediba on 18 Jan (PH, TM, JW). In July 46 on the Boro River and 16 at Jao Flats (PH, MM, AF *et al.*) were the highest counts; seven on the Chobe (MvV).

LESSER FLAMINGO *Phoeniconaias minor*

Four immature birds were at Bokaa Dam on 21 Jan (CAB) and one at Gamoleele Dam on 21 Jan (DG, MGG). On 17 April and again on 3 June four were seen at Mogobane Dam (CAB, MGG, HH); 31 were at Bokaa Dam on 22 July, 140 on 2 Sept and 40 on 30 Sept (CAB).

At Sua Spit, GMcC estimated >100,000 on 11 Feb. In early March an aerial survey was made by GMcC of the flamingo colony on Sua Pan. With the lack of rain and intense heat during late January and February, things took an unfortunate turn for the worst. Only 1,000-2,000 chicks remained huddled around an already abandoned nesting colony. They still had to survive two months before fledging. No adults were on nests but that may be due to the long hot and dry February.

BLACK STORK *Ciconia nigra*

One was at Dopotta, Tuli Block on 2 Jan and four in nearby Majale in Jan (JVz). One was seen at Ngotwane on 1 Feb and 8 Mar and one along the Taung River near Ramotswa on 1 July and 19 Aug (CAB, BLB). Two were seen along the Limpopo at Coombe Farm on 2/3 June (BLB).

SADDLE-BILLED STORK *Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis*

A pair was seen at Dopotta on 6 Jan (JvZ) and a single bird at Coombe Farm by the Limpopo on 2/3 June (BLB).

STARK'S LARK

About 100 were seen at Swart Pan (2420A) on 1 May; on 2 May, in the Nossob Valley, two were seen in 2420C4 and ca. 10 in 2620B2, and ca. 40 at Tshane Tshane Pan (2620B4) on 4 May. The birds at Swart Pan and Tshane Tshane Pan were very confiding; at the latter location one was at CAB's feet while he was talking to a cattle farmer and surrounded by cattle at a noisy diesel-operated borehole. One was at Sojwe on 8 July. In the southern Kalahari on 5 Sept, 10 were seen at a pan in 2422D1 and 12 at a pan in 2422B3. On the extensive Dautsa Flats the species was common on 7 Sept; it was estimated that in excess of 1,000 birds were present (CAB).

MOSQUE SWALLOW *Hirundo senegalensis*

A pair was noted breeding in the Linyanti Concession by BR (see note on page 34-35); four just south of Mohembo borderpost on 15 June (PN, MA, SH).

PEARL-BREASTED SWALLOW *Hirundo dimidiata*

Five were over Bokaa Dam on 22 July and one at Mogobane on 12 Aug (CAB).

SOUTH AFRICAN CLIFF SWALLOW *Hirundo spilodera*

Small flock seen at Lake Ngami on 29 July (MM, AF, PH, RDR) and a single at Mogobane Dam, also on 29 July (CAB).

BROWN-THROATED MARTIN *Riparia paludicola*

Eleven were seen along the Linyanti riverfront (1823B) on 19 June (AF). Ten were seen at Mogobane Dam on 15 April and 29 July and five at Ramotswa S.P. on 28 July, one at Dautsa Flats on 7 Sept and one at D'Kar (2121D2) on 9 Sept (CAB). On the Chobe River there were two on 18 Oct (PF).

FAIRY FLYCATCHER *Stenostira scita*

Single birds were seen at three different locations in Ngotwane in late May and early June (DG, MGG, HH & CAB). Two were at Coombe Farm by the Limpopo on 2/3 June (MMG *et al.*), two at Moroekwe Farm, Lobatse on 20 Jun (MB), one at Dithopo on 7 July and one at Rainbow School, Gaborone on 21 June, 3 August and 20 Aug (CAB).

OLIVE-TREE WARBLER *Hippolais olivetorum*

One was seen at Ramotswa on 4 Jan (CAB).

GARDEN WARBLER *Sylvia borin*

One was at Ngotwane on 3 Feb (CAB).

LONG-BILLED PIPIT *Anthus similis*

One was seen at Lobatse land-fill site (2525B3) on 17 June (CAB).

STRIPED PIPIT *Anthus lineiventris*

One was seen at Moroekwe Farm, Lobatse on 20 June (MB).

SOUTHERN BOUBOU *Laniarius ferrugineus*

Two were at Otse Hill on 5 Nov 2006; one at Ngotwane on 14 Nov; one near Mmankgodi on 9 Jan 2007; one along Metsemotlhaba River, west of Bokaa Dam on 4 Feb; one at Ngotwane on 24 Feb and 25 April, one at Lion Park, near Gaborone on 6 May (CAB). Two were seen at Coombe Farm on the Limpopo alongside two Tropical Boubous on 2/3 June (MMG).

YELLOW WAGTAIL *Motacilla flava*

Two were seen at Nata Sanctuary on 30 Jan (GMCC).

COMMON (INDIAN) MYNA *Acridotheres tristis*

Groups were seen at Nata Village and Maun in December 2006 (Clive Kaplan). Three were at Jwaneng on 10 March (MGG). Common at Lobatse land-fill site (2525B3) in mid June and a pair at Sikwane border-post on 17 Sept (CAB). Three were reported as resident at Tati Mine, Francetown (PF)

DUSKY SUNBIRD *Cinnyris fusca*

Three were seen at Mabuasehube on 17 May (MGG). For other records see pages 31-34.

ORANGE-BREASTED WAXBILL *Amandava subflava*

A flock of seven was at Mogobane Dam on 28 July (CAB)

STREAKY-HEADED SEED-EATER *Serinus mennelli*

Two at Moroekwe Farm, Lobatse on 7 Jan 2007 and two pairs there on 20 June; one at Otse Hill on 21 July (CAB, MB).

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INTERESTING AND UNUSUAL SIGHTINGS**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 June 2006 to October 2007.

HARLEQUIN QUAIL *Coturnix delegorguei*

One was heard calling at Ngotwane on 18 Feb 2006. Five were seen at Digawana (2525B3) on 15 Oct 2006 (CAB).

FULVOUS DUCK *Dendrocygna bicolor*

On the Chobe floodplain 500 were counted in Jan 2007 (AF, EH, MM, RDR).

WHITE-FACED DUCK *Dendrocygna viduata*

The largest 2006 winter flocks were on the Chobe River where almost 10,000 were seen between 27 and 29 July (NT). Up to 1,000 were seen at Lake Ngami in late Aug (CAB). In 2007 about 1,500 were seen at Bokaa Dam on 21 Jan (CAB). During winter AfWC counts,

the highest number seen was a total of 2,328 birds on the Chobe floodplain on 22 July (MV, KH, LF).

SOUTH AFRICAN SHELDUCK *Tadorna cana*

One was seen in the Makgadikgadi Pans National Park, west of Jack's Camp, on 10 April 2004 (RB). The highest 2005/2006 summer count in the southeast was of 26 at Jwaneng S.P. on 18 Jan (HH, MGG & DG). In 2006 two at Sua Spit on 4 Feb were of note as the species is rare away from the southeast (GMcC). Two were also seen at Shadishadi Pan near Sojwe Pan on 5 Feb (CAB).

The 2006/2007 summer counts included 58 at Jwaneng S.P. on 3 Jan (HH), 20 at Bathoen Dam on 2 Feb (DG, MGG) and 18 at Ramotswa S.P. on 3 Feb (HH, MB).

On 15 April there were 51 at Mogobane Dam (CAB), on 17 June 23 at Jwaneng S.P. (HH, MGG) and on 22 July some 44 at Bokaa Dam (CAB).

CAPE TEAL *Anas capensis*

In winter 2006 AfWC surveys the only moderately high counts were 28 at Ramotswa and 51 at Jwaneng S.P.s (HH, MGG, DG). On 8 Oct 2006 there was a high count along Sua Spit of 153 (NB) and on 14 Nov ca. 50 at Ramotswa S.P. (CAB)

In the 2006/07 AfWC census 69 at Ramotswa SP. on 3 Feb (HH, MB) and during June/July 2007 AfWC census the only high count was of 120 at Ramotswa S.P. on 28 July (CAB).

CAPE SHOVELER *Anas smithii*

Two were seen at Shadishadi Pan near Sojwe Pan on 5 Feb 2006 (CAB). The highest summer (2005/06) count in the southeast was of 26 at Jwaneng S.P. on 18 Jan (HH, MGG & DG). A count of 29 along Sua Spit, on 8 Oct 2006, was noteworthy (NB). A pair was seen with two ducklings at Jwaneng S.P. on 17 June 2007 (MGG, HH, KD).

SOUTHERN POCHARD *Netta erythrophthalma*

Numbers were generally low in the January 2006 AfWC census although 465 at Nnywane Dam near Lobatse were exceptional and were the highest known count at this dam (HH, MGG, DG & MB). Winter numbers were generally low with for example, only 100 on the Boteti River, 144 at Shashe Dam and 80 at Bokaa Dam (TM, ZM, GB, CAB *et al.*). In late Aug there were ca. 100 at Lake Ngami (CAB). On 14 Nov ca. 50 were seen at Ramotswa S.P. (CAB).

Rather low counts were made too in early 2007 with 60 at Moshupa Dam and 44 at Gamoleele Dam on 21 Jan (DG, MGG) and 56 at Ramotswa S.P. on 3 Feb (HH, MB) being the highest counts. During the winter of 2007 numbers everywhere were low, with the highest count being 168 at Bokaa Dam on 22 July (CAB).

AFRICAN PYGMY-GOOSE *Nettapus auritus*

One was at Planet Baobab, Gweta on 26 April 2006 (CAB). Counts included 139 on the Boro River from the buffalo fence up to Tchau Island on 14 to 15 July (PH, MM, AF, RDR).

COMB DUCK *Sarkidiornis melanotos*

This duck rarely breeds in southeast Botswana, exceptions being in the wet summer of 1999/2000 (see *Babbler* 37: 73), so two ducklings in the Kopong Hills on 4 Mar 2006 are of note (CAB, BLB). On the Chobe floodplain NT counted 3,559 from 27 to 29 July; many more were probably undetected. About 250 were at Lake Ngami by late Aug (CAB).

YELLOW-BILLED DUCK *Anas undulata*

There were 147 at Nnywane on 14 June 2007 (MB) and 210 there on 24 June, as well as 128 at Bokaa Dam on 22 July (CAB).

SPUR-WINGED GOOSE *Plectopecterus gambensis*

Two to three pairs nesting at Gamoleele Dam on 15 July 2006 (MGG & DG).

AFRICAN GREEN-PIGEON *Treron calva*

One was at Ntlanthe on 2 July 2006 (ID) whilst a flock of 80 at Moroekwe Farm, Lobatse on 20 June was of note as they are not common in SE Botswana (MB).

MEYER'S PARROT *Poicephalus meyeri*

One was at Otse on 16 September 2006 (ID).

RED-CHESTED CUCKOO *Cucullus solitarius*

Early date: one at Ngotwane on 4 Oct 2007 (CAB).

BLACK CUCKOO *Cuculus clamosus*

Early date: one at Ngotwane on 10 Oct 2007 (CAB)

STRIPED CUCKOO *Clamator levaillantii*

A recently fledged bird was fed by a group of Arrow-marked Babbler *Turdoides jardineii* in a Rurethe garden (PHe). These babbler are the usual host of this species of cuckoo.

KLAAS'S CUCKOO *Chrysococcyx klaas*

Early date: one at Modipe on 7 Oct 2007 (BLB)

SPOTTED EAGLE-OWL *Bubo africanus*

One perched on a lamp post at Block 9, Gaborone on 5 June 2006 (CAB).

FIERY-NECKED NIGHTJAR *Caprimulgus pectoralis*

Heard calling at Otse and Mogobane in April 2006 (ID).

AFRICAN PALM-SWIFT *Cypsiurus parvus*

One at Sojwe Pan on 1 Sept 2006 (CAB).

WHITE-FRONTED BEE EATER *Merops bullockoides*

Two were along Metsemotlhabe R. west of Bokaa Dam on 7 May 2006 (ID, BLB).

EUROPEAN BEE-EATER *Merops apiaster*

Late birds were several at Mogobane on 15 April 2006 and ca. 20 overhead at Ngotwane on 21 April 2006 (CAB)

BLUE-CHEEKED BEE-EATER *Merops persicus*

A late record was several at Ngotwane on 21 April 2006 (CAB).

SPECKLED MOUSEBIRD *Colius striatus*

Five were seen in a garden at Otse on 29 Oct 2006 (ID).

WHITE-BACKED MOUSEBIRD *Colius colius*

Several along northern boundary of KTP in 2421C2 on 30 May 2007 represent an extension of known range (CAB).

BRADFIELD'S HORNBILL *Tockus bradfieldi*

A small group was seen north of Rakops in 2024C4 at the southern limit of the range of this species on 30 Aug 2006 (CAB).

AFRICAN PURPLE SWAMPHEN *Porphyrio porphyrio*

One was at Sojwe Pan on 12 Feb 2006 (CAB).

LESSER MOORHEN *Gallinula angulata*

Winter records: one along Thamalakane River at Maun on 20 July 2006 and one along Khwai River, east of North Gate, on 4 August (BB, Db, AF, PH, TM, MM).

YELLOW-THROATED SANDGROUSE *Pterocles gutturalis*

About 50 were seen coming to drink at a dam east of Otse on 4 Nov 2006 and ca. 75 on 11 Nov (ID). These are the first records of this species in SE Botswana.

SPOTTED (BURCHELL'S) SANDGROUSE *Pterocles burchelli*

There were an estimated 10,000 to 15,000 coming to drink in the morning at Jwaneng S.P. on 17 June (MGG, HH, KD). Fairly common in the Molopo Farms (2523B), 29 April 2007.

KORI BUSTARD *Ardeotis kori*

One was at Sua Spit on 4 Feb 2006 (NB). There was an aggregation of 50 at an emergence of termites at Jack's Camp on 22 April (CAB). In late July/early Aug 2006 on a circuit in the CKGR 84 were counted (NT). In 2006 six were seen at 08h00 on Manamodi Pan,

Mabuasehube, KTP on 23 April (BMcC). Two were on the Chobe floodplain on 28 July (NT). One was at Nnang (2321A4), 5 at Maitlo-a-Phuduhudu (2321B2) and 2 at Bere (2221D4) on 26 August (CAB). 13 were seen at Mabuasehube on 15 September (DG, MGG, HH). Three were seen in Chobe N.P. on 15 Sept in 1824C1, then eight others – two singles and two groups of three – in the same square (TS).

In 2007 records include one at Jwaneng on 10 March, 8 at Mabuasehube on 17 May, two at Khama Rhino Sanctuary from 2-5 June and two at Nata Sanctuary on 8 June (MGG, PN, MA, SH) On 29 April 2007 a pair was seen in the Molopo Farms in 2523B4, one was seen in 2523B3, then, along the Kototsha to Mabuasehube cut-line, three were seen in 2423D3 and one in 2422C4. On 30 April, along the northern boundary of Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park (KTP), three were in 2421D4 and one in 2421C2. In KTP one was near Kaa (2420B3) and two were at Khandu Pan (2420A4); on 1 May two were seen in 2420A3; on 2 May one was seen south of Swart Pan in 2420A3 and the only sighting in the Nossob Valley was of two, 35 km north of Two Rivers, in 2620B2. On 5 May, three were in 2620B4 and two near Khawa in 2621A3. One was at Werda and two at Dautsa Flats on 7 Sept (CAB).

PIED AVOCET *Avocetta recurvirostra*

Some 1,644 birds were counted a Nata Delta on 4 Aug 2007 (GMcC).

PAINTED SNIPE *Rostratula benghalensis*

Nine were at a dam at Hildavae on 14 May 2006 (CAB). Six were seen at a pan between Sojwe and Dithopo on 11 July 2006 (ID *et al.*).

WATTLED LAPWING *Vanellus senegallus*

This species is scarce in SE Botswana. Three were seen at Lobatse S.P. on 28 Oct 2006 and from eight to 12 birds on 23 Jan 2007 (ID).

CASPIAN PLOVER *Charadrius asiaticus*

Five were noted at Bokaa Dam on 21 Jan 2007. Two at Dautsa Flats on 7 Sept is an early date for this species (CAB).

COMMON RINGED PLOVER *Charadrius hiaticula*

One was at Sua Spit on 8 Oct 2006 (NB) and 59 at Bokaa Dam on 21 Jan 2007 (CAB).

AFRICAN SNIPE *Gallinago nigripennis*

Reported 'drumming' at Jack's Camp, Makgadikgadi Pans on 15 May 2000 (RB) Makgadikgadi Pans is outside of the known range of the species.

DOUBLE-BANDED COURSER *Rhinoptilus africanus*

A pair was at Ramotswa on 6 April 2007 (CAB).

COLLARED (RED-WINGED) PRATINCOLE *Glareola glareola*

Few records of large numbers – 20 were seen near Jacana Camp in NG25 in mid Feb 2006 (VH), 183 on the Thamalakane River near Sitatunga on 15 Jan (HB) and 85 on the Okavango River near Shakawe on 27 July (JaB).

GREY-HEADED GULL *Larus cirrocephalus*

In 2006 one was seen at a small pan near Sojwe Pan on 21 May (CAB). There were five at Nata Delta and 30 at Sua Spit on 10/11 June (GMcC), with three at Sua Spit on 8 Oct (NB). Small numbers were breeding at Lake Ngmi in late Oct (PH). In 2007 some 98 were counted at Nata Delta on 30 Jan and 65 at Sua pit on 11 Feb (GMcC). Away from the Makgadikgadi system 20 were at Bokaa Dam on 22 July (CAB) and 377 on the Chobe floodplain on 22 and 23 July (MV, KH, LF).

WHISKERED TERN *Chlidonias hybrida*

Pair carrying nest material at Dihudi Pan (2525A4) on 11 Mar 2006 (CAB). Three were at Mmathethe Pan on 8 Apr and 23 Apr (ID). Two colonies were active at Lake Ngami on 29 Oct (PH).

WHITE-BACKED VULTURE *Gyps africanus*

During the drought of 2002 in the Tuli Block there were 45 pairs nesting, mainly in *Acacia albida* trees, between Coomb Farm and Sunnyside farm ca. 32km along the Limpopo River. About three-quarters of these nests still showed signs of activity towards the beginning of the 2006 breeding season, which makes the Limpopo a very important breeding area for this species (MB).

On 5 Aug 2005 there were 36 by the Hippo Pool in the Boteti River near Khumaga and on 7 Aug there were 35 at a Wildebeest carcass with Cape Vultures near Xhumaga (NT). On 16 March 2006 JvZ noted 23 bathing in the Majale River at Dopotta in the Tuli Block. On the next afternoon at the same spot he came across 98 to 100. They had just finished bathing. This is by far the most that he has seen in the area at one place and time.

There were 48 in a mixed group of vultures at Khutse 1 Pan on 14 Jan 2006 (MB).

Two nests in Camelthorns *Acacia erioloba* with well-grown juveniles were noted on 23 Sept between Phitsane Molopo and Metlojane in SE Botswana (SJT). In northern Botswana 172 nests were located (MM, BB *et al.*)

In 2007 during the weekend of 2/3 June BLB members counted 35 birds and at least 20 nests along 5km of river at Coombe Farm on the Limpopo. Records from PN, MA & SH included four at Manneylalong Hill on 31 May, ca. 12 at a donkey carcass outside Serowe en route to Khama R.S. on 2 June, 60 near a breeding site on the Masukobale River on the road from Palapye to Francistown on 5 June, six NW of Toteng on 10 June and ca. 100 between Ikoga and Sepupa on 10 June.

MARTIAL EAGLE *Polemaetus bellicosus*

No. Birds	Date	Location	Obs.
1 adult	20 June '05	Near Xini Lediba, Moremi G.R.	NT
1 sub-adult	24 July '05	Malema's Pan, Khama Rhino Sanctuary	NT
1 adult	13 Jan '06	Lephephe	CAB
3 (2ad., 1 juvenile)	April '06	Regularly seen around Jack's Camp, Makgadikgadi Pans	RB
1 immature	June 10/11 '06	Dithopo	BLB, ID
1 adult	20 June '06	Near Xini Lediba, Moremi G.R.	NT
1	14 Sept '06	Chobe N.P. in 1824C3	TS
1	15 Sept '06	Chobe N.P. in 1824C1	TS
1 adult	28 Aug '06	Between Qabo and Kuke (2121B1)	CAB
1 immature	1 Oct '06	Bokaa Dam	CAB
1 adult	22 Oct '06	Ngotwane	CAB
Pair at nest	20 Oct '06	Okavango Delta in 1923D1	PH, MM
1	17 May '07	Mabuasehube	MGG
1 immature	3-5 June '07	Khama Rhino Sanctuary	PN <i>et al</i>
1	3 June '07	Xini Lediba (1923A3)	AF
1 adult	7 July '07	Dithopo	CAB
Single	7 Aug '07	Shakawe	PS
1 adult	6 Sept '07	North of Kang (2322A4)	CAB
1 adult	6 Sept '07	Dautsa Flats	CAB

BATELEUR *Terathopius ecaudatus*

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

No. seen	Date	Location	Obs.
Several, mm and ff	24-25 July '05	Khama Rhino Sanctuary	NT
1	29 July '05	Jack's Camp, Makgadikgadi Pans	RB
3	4 April '06	Jack's Camp; first record in area for 2006	RB
1	26 April '06	Southwest of Gweta, along Makgadikgadi Pans N.P. cutline	CAB
3	5 May '06	Two adults and one imm. Along Nossob Valley between Two Rivers and Nossob Camp	CAB
1	10 June '06	Dithopo	BLB
1 m	31 July '06	Piper Pans, CKGR	NT

No. seen	Date	Location	Obs.
14	24 June '06	Khwai River from North Gate towards Mababe	NT
1	29 July '06	Letiahau, CKGR	NT
2	27-29 Jul '06	Chobe floodplain	NT
2	25 Aug '06	South of Kang	CAB
1	27 Aug '06	Groot Laagte	CAB
5	31 Aug '06	Along CKGR cutline from 2124C to 2224B	CAB
2	1 Sept '06	Along CKGR cutline in 2225C	CAB
1	1 Sept '06	Sojwe	CAB
9	15 Sept '06	Mabuasehube	D,MGG
3	1 Jan '07	Khama Rhino Sanctuary	IN-S
1	13 Jan '07	Lesoma Valley	MV
2	10 March '07	Jwaneng	MGG
1	29 April '07	Kokotsha	CAB
2	29 April '07	East of Mabuasehube (2422C4)	CAB
2	30 April '07	Northern boundary of KTP (2421C2)	CAB
1	30 April '07	Sizatswe Pan (2420A4)	CAB
3	1 May '07	South of Swart Pan (2420A4)	CAB
2	2 May '07	Upper Nossob Valley (2420C4, 2520B3))	CAB
1	3 May '07	Nossob Valley (2620B2)	CAB
1	5 May '07	East of Khawa (2621A4)	CAB
1	17 May '07	Mabuasehube	MGG
4	3 June '07	Xini Lediba	AF
7	29 June '07	Linyanti riverfront (1823B)	AF
1	5 Sept '07	NE of Mabuasehube (2422D1)	CAB
1	9 Sept '07	South of Ghanzi (2121D3)	CAB
1	9 Sept '07	Kang	CAB
2	10 June '07	Between Toteng and Ikoga	PN

OVAMBO SPARROWHAWK *Accipter ovampensis*

Singles at Dithopo on 10-11 June 2006 and at Ohe Pan (2321D1) and Maitlo-a-Phuduhudu (2321B2) on 26 August 2006 (CAB, ID).

LITTLE SPARROWHAWK *Accipter minullus*

Regular at Otse in July and August 2006 (ID).

AFRICAN MARSH-HARRIER *Circus ranivorus*

In 2007 three were seen in the Chobe floodplain at Kasane on 27 Jan (MvV), one at Nata Sactuary on 30 Jan, a single on the Thamalakane River in Maun on 6 Jan (HB, FB), four on Jao Flats on 27 Jan (KB, WS, JN, JT, DM) and five on the Okavango River below Shakawe

on 29 Jan (EP). During the winter AfWC counts, two were noted on 29 June along the Liyanti between King's Pool and the Savuti mouth (MM & BB). At nine other sites in the Okavango Delta, 32 were seen.

AFRICAN PURPLE SWAMPHEN *Porphyrio porphyrio*

One was at Sojwe Pan on 12 Feb 2006 (CAB).

LITTLE GREBE *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

During the winter 2006 AfWC counts the only moderately high numbers were in southeast Botswana at Bokaa Dam - 110 on 9 July (CAB) and at Ramotswa S.P. - ca. 200 on 5 July (HH). On 1 Nov there were ca. 700 at Ramotswa S.P. (CAB). On 30 Sept at least seven pairs had nests at Lake Ngami with no eggs in two, one egg in two, and one nest each with 2, 3 and 4 eggs (PH). Some 120 were at Ramotswa S.P. on 28 July (CAB).

AFRICAN DARTER *Anhinga melanogaster*

Breeding took place at Shashe Dam with 22 chicks noted on 19 Feb 2006 (GB *et al.*) and at Lake Ngami where three nests were seen on 29 Oct (PH). A surprising record was of four birds at Sojwe Pan on 21 May (CAB).

WHITE-BREASTED or GREAT CORMORANT *Phalacrocorax carbo*

Nesting took place at Shashe Dam during the 2006 winter (GB *et al.*) and at Bokaa Dam (one active nest) in the 2007 winter (CAB). On the Boteti River two were seen on 14 July between Samedupi and Raire (TM, ZM).

YELLOW-BILLED EGRET *Egretta intermedia*

This was the commonest egret along the Chobe River from Kasae to Ngoma Bridge on 27 Jan (RDR, AF, MM, EH) when 78 were counted (c.f. 38 Great Egrets and five Little Egrets).

LITTLE BITTERN *Ixobrychus minutus*

One was along the Okavango River below Shakawe on 29 Jan (EP).

BLACK-HEADED HERON *Ardea melanocephala*

High numbers (ca. 46) were at Lake Ngami during July 2006 probably feeding on the abundant rodents in the grass around the lake (PH, KM). On 29 July 2007 there was a count of 25 at Lake Ngami (PH, MM, AF, RDR).

GOLIATH HERON *Ardea goliath*

Two were at Nata Delta on 10 June 2006 and 19 on 30 Jan 2007 (GMcC).

PURPLE HERON *Ardea purpurea*

Present at Gaborone Dam and Gaborone Game Reserve in April 2006 (ID).

BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERON *Nycticorax nycticorax*

Six were at Sojwe Pan on 13 Jan 2006 (CAB).

DWARF BITTERN *Ixobrychus sturmii*

One was at Dihudi Pan (2525A4) on 11 March 2006 (CAB) and one at Nata Delta on 10 June (GMcC). A single was also seen at Kazungula in early Jan (AB, PR).

GREATER FLAMINGO *Phoenicopterus roseus (ruber)*

Eight were at Kgoro Pan and 23 at Pitsane Pan on 11 Jan 2006 (CAB). Aerial photographs of the breeding colony on Sua Pan on 28 Jan showed 24,380 birds (12,190 pairs) (GMcC). Some 51 were at Tlapana Pan on 1 May and over 2,130 at Mea Pan on 2 May (NT). At Sojwe Pan 13 were seen on 21 May and 60 on 11 June (CAB, DG & MGG, HH et al.). About 60 were at Tsholofelo S.P. on 20 May (ID).

In the July 2006 waterbird counts an immature was noted at Ramotswa S.P. on 5 July (HH, LQ) and 15 juveniles at Gaborone G.R. and one at Tsholofelo S.P. on 30 Aug (SJT, LT). In the Makgadikgadi Pans there were 108 at Nata Delta on 10 June and 213 at Sua Spit on 11 June (GMcC). Seven were seen on the Boteti River near Chanoga on 24 July (HB, RH, GS), ca. 30 at Lake Ngami in mid July (KM, PH, DB). On 8 Oct 1050 were counted at Sua Spit including four juveniles and six immature birds (NB).

In early 2007 there was a single at Jwaneng S.P. on 3 Jan, two at Bokaa Dam on 21 Jan and two at Ramotswa S.P. on 3 Feb (HH, MB, CAB). Three were at Shashe Dam on 11 Feb (GB, NB *et al.*). In the Makgadikgadi system, > 500 were seen at Sua Spit on 11 Feb (GMcC). On 22 July 2007 there was a count of 180 at Bokaa Dam (CAB). Two were seen at Mogobane Dam on 28 July (CAB). In the northeast there were 300 at Lake Ngami on 9 July (PH, AF, MM, RDR).

GREAT WHITE PELICAN *Pelecanus onocrotalus*

Numbers in the summer were low with nine at Shashe Dam on 19 Feb 2006 (GB, PD'A *et al.*), 28 at Nata Delta on 3 Feb and nine at Sua Spit on 4 Feb (GMcC). Some 57 were counted along the Boteti from Samedupui to below Chanoga from 15-17 Jan (PH *et al.*) and five along the same stretch on 26 Feb (GS *et al.*).

At Shashe Dam 22 were noted on 9 July (GB *et al.*). The Boteti held ca. 1,000 birds on 28 July (RH, GS *et al.*) and ca. 200 were seen between Samedupi and Chanoga on 30 August (CAB). Small numbers were seen at Lake Ngami (ca. 34) and at Nata Delta (101) and Sua Spit (32) in June and July (GMcC). On 8 Oct only nine were seen at Sua Spit (NB).

In 2007 there was a count of 3,206 at Nata Delta on 30 Jan and of seven at Sua Spit on 11 Feb (GMcC, MM, AF, RDR). A total of 834 was noted on the Chobe floodplain on 22 and 23 July (MV, KH, LF), 42 at Nata Delta on 4 Aug (GMcC) and seven on the Boteti River on 27 July between Samedupi and Xaega (TM).

PINK-BACKED PELICAN *Pelecanus rufescens*

Twelve were at Shashe Dam on 19 Feb 2006 (GB, PD'A). Five were on the Boteti River between Xobe and Chanoga from 14-17 Jan (PH *et al.*) and five from Samedupi to Chanoga on 26 Feb (GS *et al.*). In the July 2006 counts the only bird seen was one at Gadikwe Lediba on 16 July (PH, AF, MM).

On 30 Jan 2007 49 birds were present at Nata Delta (GMcC *et al.*) and on 8 Aug five were on the Okavango floodplain near Shakawe (PS). Five were at Lake Ngami on 6/7 Oct (PH).

WHITE STORK *Ciconia ciconia*

2004 Record: On 29 Feb, above the Red-billed Quelea colony at Sebalola there were ca. 300 heading WNW and circling around and on 4 March there three over Francistown heading NNE (RC). On 17 March one was seen at Kotolona (RC).

2006: Eight were noted at Khutse in mid Jan (MB). A very large winter flock of 215 was seen at Sojwe Pan on 11 June (HH *et al.*) and up to 90 at Lake Ngami during July (KM, DB, PH, CAB).

ABDIM'S STORK *Ciconia abdimii*

There were about 3,000 at Sojwe Pan on 13 Feb 2006 (CAB).

MARABOU STORK *Leptoptilos crumeniferus*

A new breeding colony (6 nests), five of them active, was located in the Linyanti, late July 2006; this colony held four active nests in June 2007 (BB, DB, MM, AF).

YELLOW-BILLED STORK *Mycteria ibis*

There were rather few birds seen in the 2006 winter with the highest count being of 92 along the Chobe from 27 to 29 July (NT). In the southeast there were two at a dam near Otse on 5 Nov (ID). In 2007 two were at Bokaa Dam on 21 Jan and 10 at Gamoleele Dam on 21 Jan (CAB, DG, MGG). The highest July 2007 count was of 450 on the Chobe floodplain on 22/23 July (MV, KH, LF).

GLOSSY IBIS *Plegadis falcinellus*

There were 73 at Mea Pan on 2 May 2006 (NT) and eight in a small pan west of Sojwe Pan on 21 May (CAB, MGG & DG). A flock of 60 was at Lake Ngami in late Aug (CAB).

EASTERN CLAPPER LARK *Mirafra fasciolota*

One was on hills above Nnywane Dam on 7 Jan 2007 (CAB).

FAWN-COLOURED LARK *Murafra africanaoides*

One was at Ramotswa on 21 July 2007

RED-CAPPED LARK *Calandrella cinerea*

Abundant in grassland at the water's edge at Lake Ngami on 7 Sept 2007(CAB).

PINK-BILLED LARK *Spizocorys conirostris*

Many were on grassland between Gatwane and Mogojwapojwe, N of Kgoro Pan, 15 Oct 2006 (CAB) and four were seen at Nata Sanctuary in early Jan 2007 (AB, PR *et al.*). A pair and small groups were noted on six occasions on 4 and 5 May in dune slacks in the KTP in 2620B and 2621A (CAB).

DUSKY LARK *Pinarocorys nigricans*

There were hundreds at Dopotta from 28 Dec 2006 to 9 Jan 2007, with up to 10 seen together (JvZ).

GREY-BACKED SPARROWLARK *Eremopterix verticalis*

This species is rare in SE Botswana so three small groups near Mogobane Dam on 15 April and a group of four near Ramotswa on 21 April are of note. Common, in association with Stark's Larks, on Dautsa Flats on 7 Sept (CAB).

ROCK MARTIN *Hirundo fuligula*

One was at Sojwe Pan on 1 Sept 2006 (CAB).

SAND MARTIN *Riparia riparia*

Two were seen along the Chobe floodplain on 28 July 2006 – an unusual time for this migrant to be in Botswana (NT).

LESSER STRIPED SWALLOW *Hirundo abyssinica*

Early bird on 28 July at Ramotswa S.P. (CAB).

AFRICAN REED WARBLER *Acrocephalus baeticatus*

One trapped at Francistown on 28 Jan 2006 had been originally ringed at the same site on 12 February 2005 (NB).

SHORT-TOED ROCK THRUSH

A female was seen south of Swart Pan on 2 May and a male at the Botswana camp site at Two Rivers, KTP on 3 May (CAB); these records represent an extension of the known range of this species

SPOTTED FLYCATCHER *Muscicapa striata*

Early date: one at Ngotwane on 14 Oct 2007 (CAB).

PALE FLYCATCHER *Melaenornis pallidus*

One was at Otse on 14 April 2006 (ID). One or two regularly seen at Ngotwane; three were there on 8 May 2007 and four came to drink on 22 June (CAB).

AFRICAN PARADISE-FLYCATCHER *Terpsiphone viridis*

Early date: one at Modipe on 7 Oct 2007 (CAB).

AFRICAN PIED WAGTAIL *Motacilla aguimp*

Two were at Gaborone on 21 April 2006 and three there in June (ID).

YELLOW WAGTAIL *Motacilla flava*

A group was noted at Lake Ngami in December 2005 and two were then caught (PD'A). Two were seen at Nata Sanctuary on 30 Jan 2007 (GMcC).

AFRICAN PIPIT *Anthus cinnamomeus*

Abundant in grassland at the water's edge at Lake Ngami on 7 Sept 2007 (CAB).

BUFFY PIPIT *Anthus vaalensis*

Most common pipit on Otse fields in March /April 2006 (ID).

PLAIN-BACKED PIPIT *Anthus leucophrys*

Two were seen on a cut-line near Sita Pan (2524B1) on 28 April (CAB).

ORANGE-THROATED LONGCLAW *Macronyx capensis*

Five were on grassland between Gatwane and Mogojwapojwe, N of Kgoro Pan on 15 Oct 2006 (CAB).

RED-BACKED SHRIKE *Lanius collurio*

A very late bird was a male seen near Ramotswa on 21 April 2007 (CAB) who noted that most had gone by mid March in 2007.

LESSER GREY SHRIKE *Lanius minor*

Late record of one on 17 April at Mogobane Dam (CAB).

SWAMP BOUBOU *Laniarus bicolor*

Birds were seen away from their usual haunts in the Okavango Delta and along the Chobe floodplain, at Nxai Pan in Dec and at Savuti Marsh in late Jan (RDR).

BLACK-CROWNED TCHAGRA *Tchagra senegala*

One was in song at Ngotwane in December 2005 - January 2006 (DG, MGG). Fairly common Ramankga Mmasechele Hills on 3 September (CAB).

WHITE-CRESTED HELMET-SHRIKE *Prionops plumatus*

Three at Mogonye (2425D3) on 22 Jan 2006. Recorded at Ngotwane in July, September and October 2006 and in May, June and August 2007 (CAB). Four were at Manyana on 6 May 2006 (ID). Several were seen at Otse Hill on 3 Mar 2007 and four at Moroekwe Farm, Lobatse on 24 June (CAB)

VIOLET-BACKED STARLING *Cinnyricinclus leucogaster*

A female was near Ntlhantlhe on 3 June 2007, a late date for this summer migrant (CAB).

SOCIABLE WEAVER *Philetairus socius*

An active colony was seen near Konkwe Pan (2321A1) on 26 Aug 2006 (CAB). This record represents an extension of the known range of the species.

AFRICAN QUAILFINCH *Ortygospiza atricollis*

In 2006 there were about 600 at Kgoro Pan on 16 July and the species was common at Sojwe Pan on 1 Sept (CAB).

BROWN FIREFINCH *Lagonosticta nitidula*

In the winter of 2005 HB reported this species along the Thamalakane River in Maun. It was also observed from 9-11 August 2006 in the Sedia Hotel grounds (NT). This species is locally common elsewhere in the northern wetlands as along the Okavango and Chobe Rivers but has rarely been recorded in Maun.

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Pied Kingfisher *Photographer: Wessels*

GAZETEER

N.P. = National Park, G.R. = Game Reserve, S.P. = Sewage Ponds (or lagoons)
 CKGR = Central Kalahari Game Reserve, KTP = Kgalakgadi Transfrontier
 (Gemsbok) Park

Artesia	2426A2	Gunn's Camp, Okavango Delta	1923C1
Atholl Holme Farm 11-KO	2425D2/D4	Herbst Farm, Lobatse	2525B3
Auob River/Nossob confluence	2620B3	Ihaha, Chobe N.P.	1724D4
Baines Baobabs, Nxai Pan N.P.	2024B4	Jan se draai, KTP	2025D3
Beetsha	1823C1	Jwaneng Golf Club/S.P.	2424D2
Bobonong	2128C4	Kabulabula, Chobe N.P.	1724D4
Bokaa Dam	2425B4/2426A3	Kameelsleep, Nossob Valley	2025D4
Bokspits	2620D	Kasane	1725C3
Boro River/floodplain	1923C	Kavimba	1824B1
Bosobogolo Pan, Mabuasehube	2522A1	Kazuma (Kasuma, Khazuma) Pan	1825A4/B3
Boteti River near Maun	2023A2/B1	Kazungula	1725C3
Butsivango	2221B	Kgajane Pan	2525A3
Chief's Island, Okavango Delta	1922B/1923A	Kgoro Pan, Good Hope	2525A4
Charter Reserve	2229A1	Khama Rhino Sanctuary	2226B1
Cheleka waterhole, Nossob	2520D4	Khawa	2621A3
Chobe N.P. (National Park)	1725C	Khiding Pan, KTP	2521B2
Coombe Farm	2327B1	Khokhotsa, Khokhotshe Pan	2423C3
Darnaway Farm, Limpopo	2327C1	Khudumalapye	2324D
Dautsa Flats	1922A4	Khutse 1 Pan	2324A4
Dead Tree Island, Moremi G.R.	1923A2	Khwai River, Moremi G.R.	1923B1/2
Deception Valley/Pan	2123B4/D2	Khwakhwe Pan, Khutse G.R.	2324A4
Delta (Safari) Camp, Boro River	1923C1	Kij Kij, Nossob Valley, KTP	2620B2
Dikbaardskolk, Nossob Valley	2025D3/4	Kleinpan, KTP	2521A2
Dihudi Pan, Mmathethe	2525A4	Kolobeng R. Livingstone's Miss.	2425D1
Dobetsaa Pans, Moremi G.R.	1923A4	Kolobeng River, Manyana	2425D3
Dopotia, N.Tuli	2228B2/2229A1	Kolonkwaneng	2425A4
Dombo Hippo Pools, Moremi	1923B1	Kransbraak, Nossob, KTP	2620B/2520D
D'kar	2121D2	Kudiakam Pan	2024B1/2
Dukwe	2126A2	Kukali(e) Pan	2023B1
Etsha 6	1922A2	Kumakwane = Kumekwane	2425D1
Francistown (Tati River)	2127B1	Kwara Lodge	1923B1
Francistown Sewage Ponds	2127B1	Kwikamba Pan	1824B4
Fourth Bridge, Moremi G.R.	1923A4	Lake Liambezi	1724C4
Gabane	2425D2	Lake Ngami	2022B3/4
Gaborone Dam	2425D2	Lechwe Flats, Chobe floodplain	1724D4
Gaborone Game Reserve (G.R.)	2425D2	Leeuwdril, Nossob, KTP	2620B3
Gamoleele Dam	2425D1/2425B3	Leijersdraai, Nossob Valley,	2520A2
Gnus Gnus Pan	2420C1	Lekadiba (Lerala) Pan	2227D4
Gobojango	2128D4	Lekkerpoet	2228B4
Gomoti River, Okavango Delta	1923B3/D1	Lentswe-le-Moriti	2229A1
Grand Palm Hotel	2425D2	Leopard Pan, northern CKGR	2123B1
Guma lagoon	1822C4	Lephephe	2325B4

Lepokole	2128C4	Moreomaoto	2024A1
Leporung dam, Molopo R.	2524D4	Morutshe Gate	1923D1
Leshalaogo Pan, Mabuasehube	2422C3	Mosimane pans, KTP	2521A
Lesoma (Leshoma) valley	1725C3/4	Motailane Pan, Khutse G.R.	2324A4
Letlhakane	2125B3	Mothabeng near Bobonong	2228A2
Letlhakeng	2425A1	Motlhakaneng	2228B2
Letsibogo Dam	2127D3	Motlopi Pan, Mmathethe	2525A4
Liambezi floodplain	1724C4/1824A2	Mowana Lodge, Kasane	1725C3
Linyanti	1823D1	Mpayathutlwa Pan, Mabuasehube	2521B2/2522A1
Lobatse Golf Course (G.C.)	2525B1	Muchenje	1724D3
Lobatse Sewage Ponds (S.P.)	2525B1/2	Mwaku Pan (Ngwako Pan)	2022D2
Mababe	1924A	Nata Delta/ Sanctuary/River	2026A3
Mabele	1724D3	Ngoma Bridge	1724D3
Mabuasehube Pan	2422C3	Ngotwane Siding	2425D4
Maditsenyane	2025C3	Ngotwane Dam	2425D4
Magwexhlana Lediba, Moremi	1923A4	Ngwaku (Mwaku) Pan	2022D2
Makoro	2227C1	Ngwatle Pan	2321C1
Malolwane	2426C2	Njuca Hills, Makgadikgadi N.P.	2024B4
Mamumo	2220A3	Nogatsaa, Chobe N.P.	1824B4/1825A3
Mannyelanong Hill, Otse	2525B2	Nossob Camp, KTP	2520B3
Mannyelanong Hill, Manyana	2425D3	Nossob/Auob confluence	2620B3
Manyana	2425D3	Nnywane Dam	2525B2
Marico River	2426C2/2426B4	Nsokotsha Pan	2125B1
Marie se draai, Nossob KTP	2025B3	Ntwetwe Pan extension, Zoroga	2025B
Masiadieme near Bobonong	2228A2	Nxai Pan	1924D4
Mathathane Dam	2228B1	Nxabega	1922B4
Matlesi River, Phitsane Molopo	2525C1	Nxaraga Lediba, Moremi G.R.	1923C1
Mashatu, Tuli	2229A1	Oliphants Drift	2426B2/4
Maun	1923C4/2023A2	Pandamatenga	1825D1
Maya Pan, Fourth Bridge, Moremi	1923A2	Parakarungu	1824A2
Mea Pan	2126A2	Phakalane S.P.	2425D2
Mmabarwa Pan	2128C4	Phokoje Pan, CKGR	2123C1
Mmankgodi Junction	2425D4	Piajio, Chief's Island	1922B2
Modipane	2426C1	Pitsane Siding	2525B3
Modipe Hill	2426C1	Platjan, Limpopo	2228B4
Mogabe wa Kgoma (Ox Pan)	2525A4	Poha	1824B4
Mogapi	2227B4	Polentswa Pan, KTP	2520A2
Mogobane Dam	2425D3	Pont Drift	2229A1
Mogonye, near Manyana	2425D3	Puku Flats, Chobe N.P.	1725C3
Mokolodi	2425D4	Rakops	2124B1
Mokubilo Pan	2126A	Ramatlabama	2525D1
Molalatau	2228B1	Ramonaka	2426C2
Molepolole Gorge, Dam and S.P.	2425B3	Ramotswa	2425D4
Monamodi Pans, Mabuasehube	2522A	Rooibok	2228C2
Monong	2321D1	Rooiputs, Nossob Valley, KTP	2620B3
Mopipi	2124B2	Ruretse	2426C1
Moremi G.R.	1922B/1923A/1923B	Samedupi	2023B1
Moremi Gorge, Tswapong Hills	2227C2		

San-Ta-Wani, Okavango Delta	1923B3/D1	Talana	2228B2/2229A1
Sandibe	1923A4	Talana marsh	2228B2/4
Satau	1824A2	Tale Pan, near Toteng	2022D2
Savuti Marsh	1824C1	Tati Plots near Francistown	2127B1
Sebalola	2127A1	Tau Pan, northern CKGR	2123C2
Second Bridge, Moremi G.R.	1923A4	Tchinga Pan	1824B4
Sedudu Island, Chobe River	1725C3	Thagale Dam	2426A3
Sef (p)ophe	2227B2	Thamalakhane River	1923C4/D3, 2023A2
Selebi Phikwe	2127D4	Third Bridge, Moremi G.R.	1923A2
Seleka Farm, Limpopo	2227D4	Tlapana Pan	2126A2
Selinda Reserve	mainly 1823C/D	Tsabong	2622A2
Semolale	2128D4	Tshane Tshane Pan	2620B4
Sepupa	1822C1	Tsholofelo S.P.	2425D2
Serondella	1724D4	Tswaanyaneng Pan	2525C1
Seronga	1822C4	Tubu	1922A4
Sesatswa Pan, KTP	2420D2	Twee Rivieren/Two Rivers	2620B3
Shaile Airstrip	1824A1	Tweelina Rambuka Pans, KTP	2420C4
Shalizambo	1824A1	Vumbura, Okavango Delta	1822D
Shakawe	1821B3	Winteroord Dam	2228B2
Shashe	2127A4	Xaka, CKGR	2223B3/4
Shashe Dam	2127A4	Xakanaxa, Moremi G.R.	1923A2
Sherwood	2227D4	Xaxaba	1923C1
Shindi Camp, Okavango Delta	1923A1	Xhumaga	2024B3
Shoshong Gorge	2326B1	Xigera, Okavango Delta	1922B4
Sibuyu Forest Reserve	1825D4	Xini Lediba, Moremi G.R.	1923A4
Sita Pan	2524B1	Xobe near Maun	2023A2
Sojwe Pan	2325B3	Xudum	1922D2
Stevensford (Limpopo)	2228C3	Xugana, Moremi G.R.	1923A1
Stoffel's Pan	1825A2	Xuku Pan, Moremi GR	1923B1
Sua Spit	2026C1	Zenkoyo	1923B4
Sunday Pan, CKGR	2123B		



Black-Shouldered Kite *Photographer: R. Rule*

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RECENT PUBLICATIONS ON BIRD IN, OR OF RELEVANCE TO, BOTSWANA

Hancock, P., Bridges, B. & Muller, M. 2007. Monitoring raptors in the Linyanti area of northern Botswana. *Ecological Journal* 8:

The authors describe their work in counting raptor nests in the Linyanti from two microlights. They found 92 nests of the three commonest raptors as well as small numbers of many other species. The three most common raptors were White-backed Vulture, African Fish Eagle and Tawny Eagle.

Luck, D. 2006. The Collared Palm-Thrush- rare resident of the central Okavango Delta. *Ecological Journal* 7: 92-93

David Luck describes his sightings of Collared Palm Thrushes at Xigera between June 2002 and August 2004 and again in December 2005.

Roche, C. & Nels, G. 2006. Collared Palm-Thrush at Selinda – a case for a revised understanding of the distribution of the species in northern Botswana. *Ecological Journal* 7: 102-103

Sightings by Chris Roche of this Palm-Thrush in the Selinda Concession are noted and reference made to Brian Rode's records in the adjacent Linyanti Concession.

Simmons, R., Baker, N., Braby, R., Dodman, T., Nasirwa, O., Tyler, S., Verfeld, W., Wearne, K. & Wheeler, M. 2007. The Chestnut-banded Plover is an overlooked globally Near Threatened species. *Bird Conservation International* 17: 283-293

The authors provide a new world population estimate of 17,830 birds. Only eight sites in southern and East Africa hold more than 1% of this population with three of the sites (Walvis Bay, Sandwich Harbour and Lake Natron) holding 87% of the world population in the non-breeding periods. Five other sites hold more than 100 birds. It is argued that the species should be changed from Least Concern to Near Threatened. The population is low and it occurs mainly in three sites, two of which are under threat from pollution, siltation and water abstraction.

In Botswana Nata Delta at times holds more than 1% of the world population whilst Mea and Rysana Pans in the Makgadikgadi system each sometimes hold more than 100 birds.

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Visit www.ccafrica.com and www.wildwatch.com and
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BABBLER

Journal of BirdLife Botswana



The sincere thanks of all the members of BirdLife Botswana go to Remi and Wendy Borello who have once again generously supported the printing of this issue of the *Babbler*.

Cover Design by **Impression House**

Printing by **Impression House**