



# Northern Cape Bi-annual Waterbird Surveys Winter 2007



Avian  
Demography  
Unit

## Winter 2007 survey

During the recent survey 51 574 waterbirds of 74 species were counted at 61 Northern Cape wetlands. For various reasons waterbird counts were not conducted at nine wetlands, with boat problems being the reason why Vanderkloof Dam and Spitskop Dam were not surveyed. I have recently acquired a new inflatable boat and hopefully my boat problems will be a thing of the past.

## New wetlands surveyed

Enrico Oosthuysen has once again expanded the network of wetland sites that are visited during his bi-annual surveys in Namaqualand. Enrico and his colleagues now conduct waterbird surveys at 23 wetlands. Many thanks Enrico for this superb contribution! The information derived during these surveys is, in many ways, the first documentation of waterbird numbers at wetlands in Namaqualand.

## Northern Cape's top wetlands

Kamfers Dam (29 140), McDougall's Bay (4135) and the Orange River estuary (3902) supported the largest number of waterbirds. More than 1000 waterbirds were also counted at Nooitgedacht (2040), Sovermyndam (1399), Ganspan B (1038) and the two Springbokkamp wetlands (1043 and 1178).

## New species counted

A total of 74 waterbird species was counted, with the high diversity largely the result of the expansion of the project in Namaqualand to include a few coastal wetlands (where, for example, Bank Cormorants and African Black Oystercatchers are recorded). A few species were notable absent, including Great Egret, Squacco Heron and several species of terns. Many of these waterbirds are recorded at Spitskop Dam, a wetland which was not surveyed during winter 2007. The greatest species diversity was recorded at the Orange River estuary (45 species) and the Orange River: Bridge-Hohenfels (30 species). More than 20 species was also recorded at Springbokkamp wetland (29), Sovermyndam (25), Kamfers Dam (24), MacDougall's Bay (23) and Springbokkamp pan (22).

## Top CWAC contributors

With 28 and 18 sites surveyed, respectively, Mark Anderson and Enrico Oosthuysen are the 1<sup>st</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> top contributors to the CWAC project in South Africa.

## Lesser Flamingos at Kamfers Dam

There have been a number of developments on the Kamfers Dam front:

1. Ekapa Mining received a prestigious Nedbank Capital Green Mining Award for the construction of the flamingo breeding island.
2. Sponsorship has been obtained from Nedbank for the placement of a webcam (probably three webcams) on the island and mainland.
3. Important, Lesser Flamingos are now breeding at Kamfers Dam (more later...!).

## New ADU name and website

Note that the Avian Demography Unit is now the Animal Demography Unit, and the ADU's website address has changed to: [www.adu.org.za](http://www.adu.org.za)

## Electronic census form

A new electronic means of completing and submitting data is being implemented by the ADU, and these new forms have been e-mailed to the Northern Cape participants.

## Next survey

The next survey will take place during late-January 2008.

## Acknowledgements

The following persons contributed towards the survey: Res Altwegg, B. Benadie, Heath Cronje, Trevor Datnow, Eric Herrmann, Johan Jonk, Maxie Jonk, Deon Joubert, Holger Kolberg, Abrie Maritz, M. Mathshikiza, Enrico Oosthuysen, Chris Preece, Andrew Stainthorpe, Ute Stenkewitz, Ronel van der Merwe and Ronelle Visagie. I am also grateful to the landowners who allowed access onto their properties.

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## The number of waterbirds and species counted during the winter 2007 waterbird survey in the Northern Cape Province, South Africa

Wetland name	Observer	Number of waterbirds	Number of species
Agter Tuin se Dam	Enrico Oosthuysen & Maxie Jonk	43	7
Benfontein Dam (Kimberley area)	Eric Herrmann	0	0
Benfontein Pan (Kimberley area)	Eric Herrmann	30	4
Bergsig Sewerage Works	Enrico Oosthuysen & Maxie Jonk	21	5
Boetie Tol se Dam (Namaqualand)	Enrico Oosthuysen & Maxie Jonk	173	14
Bosduiwekop (Petrusville)	Heath Cronje <i>et al.</i>	367	12
Bo Vlei se dam	Enrico Oosthuysen & Maxie Jonk	2	1
Buffels River Mouth	Enrico Oosthuysen & Johan Jonk	362	19
Dampoortdam (Spitskop)	Mark Anderson	449	13
Danielskuil Dams (Danielskuil)	Mark Anderson	0	0
Danielskuil Pan (Danielskuil)	Mark Anderson	0	0
De Aar Sewerage Works (De Aar)	Not surveyed		
Dutoitspan (Kimberley area)	Not surveyed (access difficulties)		
Espagsdriftvlei (Jan Kempdorp)	Mark Anderson	87	16
Faugh-A-Ballagh (Colesberg)	Heath & Cronje	111	10
Ganspan A (Jan Kempdorp)	Mark Anderson	369	8
Ganspan B (Jan Kempdorp)	Mark Anderson	1038	20
Ganspan Nedersettingdam (Jan Kempdorp)	Not surveyed (dam generally dry and encroached with vegetation)		
Great Pan (Danielskuil)	Mark Anderson	0	0
Groen River Mouth	E. Oosthuysen, Maxie & Johan Jonk	396	14
Grootdam (Roopoort)	Andrew Stainthorpe	10	4
Hanskopfontein Pan (Kimberley area)	Mark Anderson	0	0
Hertsogvanwyk Dam (Namaqualand)	Enrico Oosthuysen & Maxie Jonk	100	11
Kafferspoort Dam (Hanover)	Mark Anderson & Res Altwegg	0	0
Kamfers Dam (Kimberley area)	Mark Anderson	29140	24
Kamieskroon Sewerage Works	Enrico Oosthuysen/Maxie Jonk	10	6
Klipkolk Dam (Mier)	Not surveyed (Ben von Wielligh no longer resident in Upington)		
Kleinsee AK3 Dam	Enrico Oosthuysen & Johan Jonk	932	8
Kraankuilsdam (Strydenburg)	Ronelle Visagie	2	1
Kraankuilsdam Weir (Strydenburg)	Ronelle Visagie	264	15
Kraankuilssaaidam (Strydenburg)	Ronelle Visagie	0	0
Kriegerspoort Dam (Hanover)	Not surveyed		
Marrick Pan (Kimberley area)	Mark Anderson (Trevor Datnow)	0	0
MacDougall's Bay	E. Oosthuysen/Maxie & Johan Jonk	4135	23
Nantwich Salt Pan (Kimberley area)	Mark Anderson	11	3
Nooitgedacht (Orania)	Ronelle Visagie	2040	19

Nourivier Dam (Namaqualand)	Enrico Oosthuysen & Maxie Jonk	139	10
Nuwejaarsfontein House Dam (De Aar)	Mark Anderson (Sterrie Marais)	0	0
Nuwejaarsfontein Farm Dam (De Aar)	Mark Anderson (Sterrie Marais)	0	0
Orange River Estuary - Ramsar site	Mark Anderson <i>et al.</i>	3902	45
Orange River: Bridge – Hohenfels	Mark Anderson	411	30
Orange River: Hohenfels – Skilpadberg	Holger Kolberg & Ronel vd Merwe	159	20
Orange River: Border Post - Fiddler's Creek	Enrico Oosthuysen & Johan Jonk	119	14
Orange River: Fiddler's Creek - Hamerkop	Enrico Oosthuysen & Johan Jonk	225	15
Orange River: Hamerkop - Sjambok	Enrico Oosthuysen & Johan Jonk	100	14
Orange River: Sjambok - Norosthama	Enrico Oosthuysen & Johan Jonk	183	14
Orange River: Norosthama - Richtersberg	Enrico Oosthuysen & Johan Jonk	152	15
Orange River: Richtersberg – Fish River	Enrico Oosthuysen & Johan Jonk	283	18
Pedro's Kloof Dam (Namaqualand)	Enrico Oosthuysen & Maxie Jonk	179	13
Platfontein Pans (Kimberley area)	Not surveyed		
Port Nolloth Salt Pan	E. Oosthuysen/Maxie & Johan Jonk	209	14
Pudu Farm Dam (Olifantshoek)	Mark Anderson	0	0
Rooifontein Pan (Kimberley area)	Mark Anderson/Eddie McFarlane	0	0
Rooipan (Danielskuil)	Mark Anderson	0	0
So Ver Myn Dam (Spitskop)	Mark Anderson	1399	25
Soutpan (Ghaap Plateau)	Not surveyed (pan now game fenced and therefore not easily accessible)		
Spitskop Dam (Spitskop)	Not surveyed (boat problems)		
Spoeg River Mouth	E. Oosthuysen, Maxie & Johan Jonk	285	13
Springbok Sewerage Works (Springbok)	Enrico Oosthuysen & Maxie Jonk	147	14
Springbokkamp (Modder River)	Eric Herrmann	1043	29
Springbokkamp pan (Modder River)	Eric Herrmann	1178	22
Strydenburg Pan (Strydenburg)	Ronelle Visagie	0	0
Theunis se Dam	Enrico Oosthuyen & Maxie Jonk	5	2
Vaalbos: Holpan/Graspan (Kimberley area)	Mark Anderson (Deon Joubert)	0	0
Volstruispan (Rooipoort)	Andrew Stainthorpe	0	0
Vanderkloof Dam	Not surveyed (boat problems)		
Vioolsdrift Dam	E. Oosthuysen & Johan Jonk	107	19
Wanebaai, Vaalharts Weir (Warrenton)	Mark Anderson	971	17
Wortelfontein Dam (Richmond)	Mark Anderson	96	11
Zeekoei River Tributary (Vanderkloof Dam)	Heath Cronje <i>et al.</i>	190	10
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>51574</b>	<b>74</b>