

## Summary of the 2016 Summer Wetland Bird Counts in Namibia

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During January and February 2016 wetland bird counts were once again conducted in Namibia. The effects of the current drought are quite apparent in the seven sites that returned a zero count due to the fact that the wetlands are completely dry. The count on the Kwando River could also not be conducted because the low level of the river prevented access by boat to the channels that are being counted. Nevertheless, data was received from 49 wetlands, comprising a total of 276 728 birds of 124 species. The lack of waders and terns is interesting and is probably due to the warm-water event experienced at the coast prior to the counts being conducted. Good rainfall inland in the week prior to the counts at Walvis Bay and Sandwich Harbour perhaps also contributed to this, especially the lack of e.g. Chestnut-banded Plovers.

Sandwich Harbour and Walvis Bay head the list of numbers counted due mainly to large numbers of flamingos and a massive roost of Cape Cormorants at Sandwich Harbour. The Walvis Bay sewage works are in a surprising third place, again due to a large number of flamingos counted there. Two sites on the Okavango River, Samsitu and Shamvura, head the species list with Walvis Bay coming in third.

Twenty-five red data book species were counted, the two species of flamingo and Cape Cormorant being the most numerous. Of concern are the species that were counted in low numbers or not at all e.g. cranes and Great Crested Grebe.

Comparison of the last seven years' summer counts shows a decline in the numbers of the three big groups of birds i.e. flamingos, waders/shorebirds and gulls, terns and skimmer, this notwithstanding the fact that more sites are now being counted than in 2010. Cormorants were not added to this analysis because they are not counted at all the wetlands where they occur.

I am very grateful to all the volunteers that participate in the counts mostly at their own cost and in their own time. Thanks to your contribution Namibia is seen as one of the leading participants in the International Waterbird Census and a major contributor to the waterbird population estimates that are produced every three years. Thank you very much!

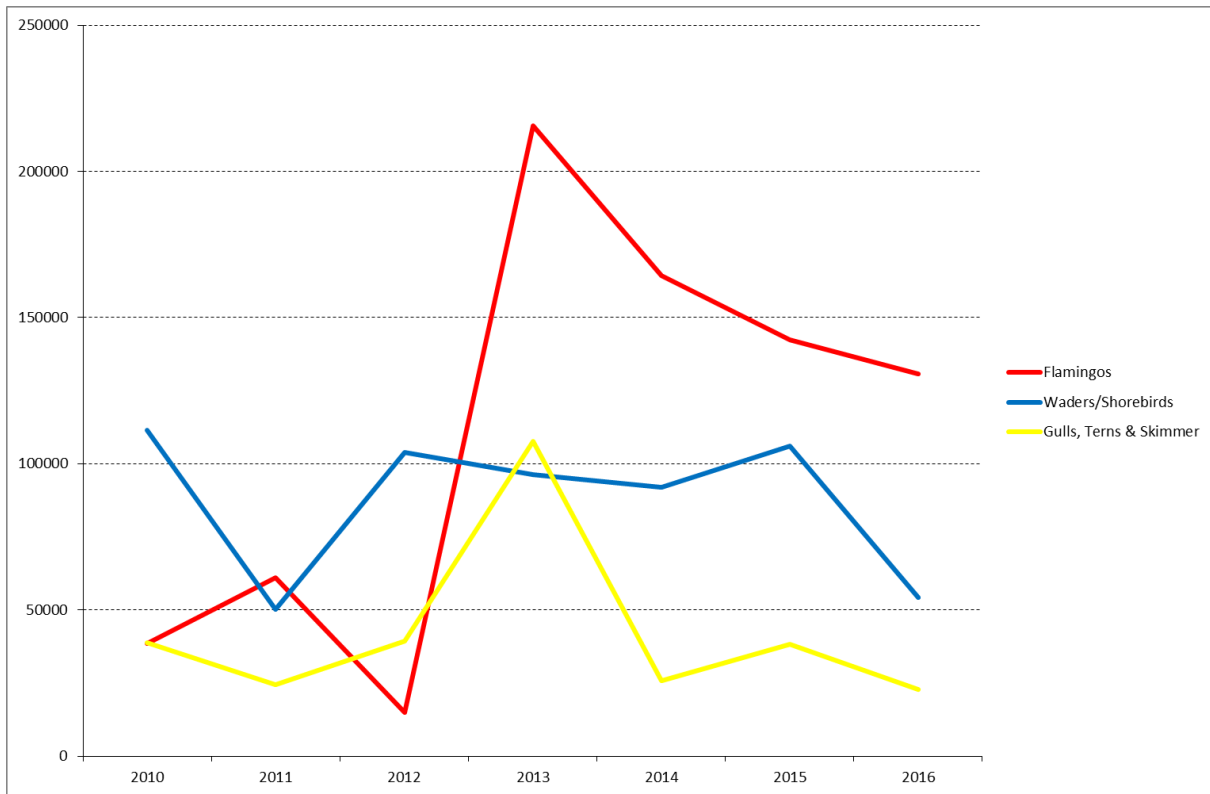
**Table 1 (next page):** List of wetlands counted, numbers counted and total number and species counted for each site.

Site	Date	Grebes	Pelicans	Cormorants & Darter	Hérons & Egrets	Storks	Ibises & Spoonbill	Hamerkop	Flamingos	Cranes	Geese & Ducks	Rails, Gallinules & Coot	Finfoot & Jacanas	Waders/Shorebirds	Gulls, Terns & Skimmer	Birds of Prey	Additional Species	No of Birds	No of Species
Sandwich Harbour	30-Jan-16	64	22	50020	37	0	0	0	70000	0	671	0	0	15699	5367	0	1	141881	31
Walvis Bay	30-Jan-16	236	746	1167	121	0	0	0	46462	0	1092	0	0	32021	13426	0	9	95280	39
Walvis Bay Sew age Ponds	31-Jan-16	592	92	0	5	0	0	0	13267	0	411	74	0	142	309	0	0	14892	29
Cape Cross	01-Feb-16	1480	0	3012	0	0	0	0	574	0	36	0	0	929	2115	0	2	8148	25
Lake Oponono	11-Jan-16	35		0	675	67	2	0	18	3	1144	142	0	2082	30	0	0	4198	34
Samsitu Area, Okavango River	24-Jan-16	2	0	229	556	79	0	2	0	0	434	31	119	595	11	15	47	2120	51
Kalizo Lodge (Zambezi River)	15-Feb-16	0	0	35	270	8	24	0	0	0	135	2	64	1009	18	12	0	1577	35
Hardap Dam	14-Jan-16	0	456	342	36	81	31	0	7	0	217	0	0	270	0	1	0	1441	24
Shamvura Area, Okavango River	03-Feb-16	0	0	26	258		0	0	0	0	73	24	60	258	13	2	16	730	46
Shearwater Bay	22-Jan-16	0	0	58	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	5	586	0	0	652	7
Mahango Core Area	11-Jan-16	0	0	30	110	71	11	1	0	0	136	0	74	35	0	1	0	469	27
Second Lagoon	22-Jan-16	0	0	20	4	0	0	0	89	0	4	0	0	336	8	0	0	461	22
Guano Bay	22-Jan-16	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	12	0	51	0	0	106	246	0	0	418	13
Otjivero Dam	07-Feb-16	0	0	69	6	6	0	0	0	0	17	299	1	3	1	1	0	403	16
Swakop Sew age Works	28-Jan-16	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	43	13	0	14	329	0	0	401	15
Windhoek (Gammans) Sew age Works	24-Jan-16	2	0	15	123	1	0	1	0	0	66	139	7	38	0	1	0	393	26
Klein Dobe	10-Feb-16	0	0	0	7	6	1	0	12	0	105	120	0	100	19	0	0	370	21
Naute Dam	15-Jan-16	0	51	152	20	0	7	0	0	0	115	2	0	7	0	1	0	355	15
Orange River Mouth (Ramsar Site)	19-Jan-16	0	81	25	7	0	2	0	2	0	49	20	0	111	23	3	0	323	28
Swakop River Mouth	28-Jan-16	0	1	4	1	0	0	0	103	0	14	2	0	62	104	0	0	291	26
Lüderitz Sew age Works	22-Jan-16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	195	0	45	0	0	10	32	0	0	282	5
Riverdance Area, Okavango River	14-Feb-16	3	0	46	70	0	0	3	0	0	50	4	2	83	0	3	6	270	31

Monte Christo	23-Jan-16	0	3	29	61	2	0	3	0	0	43	3	10	90	0	2	0	246	27
Orange River Hohenfels to Bridge	20-Jan-16	0	0	9	18	0	12	0	0	0	76	27	0	26	9	4	0	181	27
Grosse Bucht	22-Jan-16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	173	0	0	176	4
Nunda Area, Okavango River	30-Jan-16	0	0	18	53	3	0	0	0	0	12	3	12	45	0	1	10	157	24
Ekuma River	11-Jan-16	71	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	24	0	0	57	0	0	0	152	7
Hoffnung Dam	23-Jan-16	0	0	0	4	0	2	0	0	0	87	0	0	42	0	2	6	143	13
Leadwood Pan	09-Feb-16	4	0	0	1	0	0	0	17	0	37	0	0	27	0	1	0	87	12
Baraka Pan	09-Feb-16	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	35	3	2	1	0	0	52	6
Griffith Bay	22-Jan-16	10	0	8	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	18	7	0	0	45	13
Gautscha Pan	09-Feb-16	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	21	0	0	12	0	0	0	35	5
Gura Pan	09-Feb-16	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	12	0	2	0	0	0	23	5
Aeroplane Bay	22-Jan-16	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	6	7	0	0	18	6
Makuri Vlei	09-Feb-16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	2	0	2	0	0	0	14	3
Agate Beach	22-Jan-16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	2	0	0	13	2
Gimsa Pan	09-Feb-16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	4	0	0	0	10	4
Radford Bay	22-Jan-16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	2	0	0	9	2
Okondeka	11-Jan-16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	4	2
Fischer's Pan	14-Jan-16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1
Tjokwe Pan	10-Feb-16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	3	1
Daan Viljoen GP	24-Jan-16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1
Avis Dam	23-Jan-16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Groot Dobe	10-Feb-16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Khabi Pan	09-Feb-16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nama Pan	09-Feb-16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nuu-no Pan	09-Feb-16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nyae Nyae Pan	09-Feb-16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
van Rhyn Dam	14-Jan-16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>2512</b>	<b>1452</b>	<b>55321</b>	<b>2444</b>	<b>324</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>130762</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5240</b>	<b>954</b>	<b>352</b>	<b>54274</b>	<b>22838</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>276728</b>	<b>124</b>	

**Table 2:** List of red data book species, numbers counted and number of sites where they were seen.

<b>Species</b>	<b>No seen</b>	<b>No of sites</b>
Greater Flamingo	79391	13
Cape Cormorant	54147	3
Lesser Flamingo	50711	10
Black-necked Grebe	2439	8
Hartlaub's Gull	2186	13
Great White Pelican	1435	8
Chestnut-banded Plover	523	2
African Black Oystercatcher	257	9
Damara Tern	100	2
Marabou Stork	87	3
Caspian Tern	77	4
Eurasian Curlew	47	4
Crowned Cormorant	31	4
Maccoa Duck	29	2
African Fish-Eagle	28	12
Rock Pratincole	16	2
Rufous-bellied Heron	10	2
African Marsh-Harrier	9	5
Slaty Egret	7	3
Wattled Crane	3	1
Blue Crane	3	1
Black Stork	2	1
Great Snipe	2	1
Black-winged Pratincole	1	1
Cape Gannet	1	1
Great Crested Grebe	0	0
Bank Cormorant	0	0
Eurasian Bittern	0	0
Saddle-billed Stork	0	0
Grey Crowned Crane	0	0
African Finfoot	0	0
African Skimmer	0	0
Pallid Harrier	0	0



**Figure 1:** Comparison of numbers counted from 2010 to 2016 for three major groups of wetland birds.