

IN THIS ISSUE

Training workshops highlight further wildlife/power line problems

1. Keetmanshoop ... p2
2. Mariental ... p3
3. Walvis Bay ... p4
4. Windhoek ... p5

Ludwig's Bustard – uplist to *Endangered?* ... p6
Wildlife/power line incident reports ... p6
Newsflashes ... p7

TRAINING WORKSHOPS HIGHLIGHT FURTHER WILDLIFE/POWER LINE PROBLEMS

- *Bustards are colliding with power lines in the South, and Sociable Weaver nests are causing outages*
- *Power line collisions are a threat to both coastal birds, and raptors in the Windhoek area*

The NamPower/Namibia Nature Foundation (NNF) Strategic Partnership has launched a country-wide series of half-day workshops that focus on promoting

awareness and gathering information on power line/wildlife incidents in Namibia (see newsletter no. 2). The target audience includes NamPower and Regional Electricity Distribution (RED) staff, and landowners and managers that have power lines/structures on their properties (e.g. farmers, conservancies, the Ministry of Wildlife and Tourism and other institutions); but anyone else who is interested is welcome to attend.

The workshops at Brakwater, Tsumeb and Otjiwarongo are discussed in the above newsletter, while the latest ones are discussed below. Additional workshops will be arranged in 2010 as required. The workshop programme includes an introduction to the NamPower/NNF partnership; bird collisions and electrocutions (causes, results, prevention/mitigation); birds involved in power line/wildlife interactions; birds nesting on power lines; incident reporting (importance, methods and what to do if you find an injured bird); how you can become involved (power line monitoring, incident reporting, area working groups); discussion and the way ahead (actions and establishment of local area working group). The workshops are usually followed by an inspection of a section of power line that has or is likely to result in problems.

Detailed reports on all the workshops (including discussion points) are available on our website.



Bustard mortality, apparently due to collision with the near-invisible earth wire of the 400 kV Kokerboom line east of Keetmanshoop - see p2 (photo Ann Scott)



Removal of Sociable Weaver nests that cause outages on the 33 kV HLPD lines east of Mariental, especially during the rainy season – see p3 (photo Ann Scott)

KEETMANSHOOP (19/11/09 at Canyon Hotel)

The workshop at Keetmanshoop was attended by a strong delegation from NamPower (André Reyneke, Hansie Peens, Pieter Cloete, Immanuel Gaweseb, Jason Iiyambo, Elkan Mangundu, John Munjanu, Thomas Ndakoneka, Bernadino Pameni, Andreas Shilongo, Hiskai Uugulu); Gondwana Canyon Park (Danie & [Dr] Rachel Brand, Ignatius Sikongo); Namdeb (Albethina Edward); with apologies from MET Parks & Wildlife (Trygve Cooper), MFMR ([Dr] Jessica Kemper), Namdeb (Ronel van der Merwe) and UCT (Jessica Shaw).

Summary of actions

1. Reporting

- Include incident form with the NamPower vehicle pack; where GPS facilities are not yet available, the spot can easily be marked; follow up with regular discussions on wildlife/power line interactions

2. Address the Sociable Weaver nesting problem

- Try relocating nests on dummy poles including old windmills, and on "baskets" (see p8)
- Discuss possible bird repellants with cellphone companies (why do birds not nest on these towers?)
- Try using densotape with putty
- Fit PVC pipe onto jumpers/droppers
- Experiment with caging for insulators

3. Awareness

- Promote awareness amongst NamPower staff, and also involve farmers

4. Specific actions by Gondwana Canyon Park

- Patrol power lines
- Promote awareness among farmers

Power line survey/investigation

We investigated part of the 400 kV "V-line" north-east of Keetmanshoop and south of Kokerboom D/S, where several NamPower lines converge including this one as well as the 220 kV, 132 kV and 66 kV lines. The area has a high potential for wildlife/power line interactions due to the convergence of these lines, and strong winds experienced. This is made worse by the structure of the 400 kV "V-line", with its near-invisible earth wire.

Potential problems in the area were noted during a visit by Hansie Peens and Pieter Cloete the previous week (10/11/09) and three bustard carcasses were found. We found a total of four bustard carcasses and one other large bird (possibly a juvenile Black Stork) in a distance of 11 km. All carcasses were <2 weeks old; their heads and necks had been removed by scavengers (jackals?).

The above pattern of collisions is of great concern, especially in view of the fact that all five carcasses were less than two weeks old. As scavengers may have removed whole carcasses, these figures are considered to represent minimum numbers of collisions. The line has been in existence for nine years. The historical extent of the collisions/mortalities is unknown; however, if one were to multiply these minimum figures by the length of the line (and other similar lines) and per month/year, the result would be a significant off-take from the bustard population.



Top: The Keetmanshoop workshop participants; Centre: Pieter Cloete (L) and Hansie Peens (R) point out a bustard carcass below the 400 kV line; Below: Carcass of a juvenile Ludwig's Bustard beneath the 400 kV line (photos Ann Scott).

The above findings would justify a much expanded monitoring survey in order to obtain some idea of the greater impact through large sample sizes, as well as any geographic trends. Even though neither species of bustard is on the Red Data List as yet, the IUCN/global status of Ludwig's Bustard is being reassessed by BirdLife International at present, with a view to uplisting it to *Endangered*. If the identification of the fifth bird is correct as a juvenile Black Stork, this species is also *Endangered*. The recommendations below should therefore be considered as critically urgent.

Recommendations

1. Assessment of the extent and areas of impact

- If possible, survey the whole of the area covered by the 400 kV lines in the South within the next few months, using a standardized form; based on the findings, make an assessment of the areas where mitigation is a priority.
- Given the constraints on NamPower resources during the rainy season, investigate supplementary counts by trained volunteers.

2. Mitigation

- Investigate mitigation in problem areas, as soon as sufficient information is available. The marking of the two less visible wires (earth wire and optic cable) with Double Loop Bird Flight Diverters (or a modification) appears to be a good option.

3. Monitoring

- Include ongoing monitoring during regular NamPower activities, to determine:
 - Effectiveness of mitigation measures
 - Any further problem areas

4. Awareness

- Continue to promote awareness about the problem and reporting method to NamPower staff and other stakeholders, especially the farming community.

MARIENTAL (17/11/09 at NamPower offices)

The workshop focussed on interacting with local NamPower staff (Sidney Geiseb, Venesius Kamupo, Isak Hinda, Lukas Paulus, Haufiku Mateus, Thomas Muronga, Clive Walters; with apologies from Petrus Immanuel and A.C. van Zyl).

Summary of actions

1. Address Sociable Weaver nesting problems

- Attempt to estimate the costs involved in managing Sociable Weaver nests on power lines.
- Revisit the area during the rainy season in 2010 to observe rates of nest-building activity by Sociable Weavers.
- Experiment with methods for relocating Sociable Weaver nests on "dead" lines (lines that are switched off).
- Try to find another solution, e.g. noise deterrents; dummy poles in combination with silicon grease on original nest site.
- Share information on successes.



The Mariental workshop participants (photo Mike Scott)

2. Promote awareness

- Spread awareness among NamPower personnel, schools; obtain bird books for NamPower personnel.

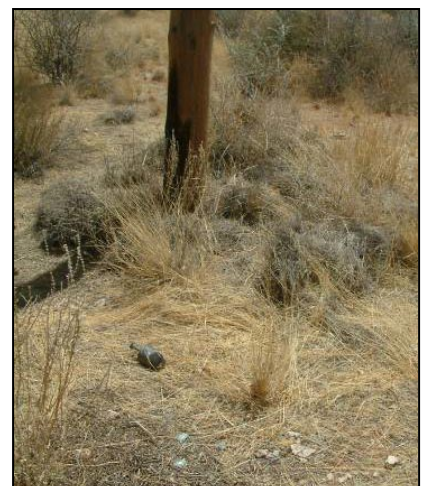
3. Reporting

- Liaise with NamPower National Control section on historical records of bird-related power line incidents
- Also send regular reports of findings to NamPower National Control; draw up a proforma form.

Power line survey/investigation

We investigated part of the 33 kV HLPD line (Vlakwater: Mariental/Gibeon MT/GB/210) east of Mariental along the D1066 road. There are a number of 33 kV power lines in the area, as well as the larger 220kV and 400 kV lines. The area thus has a high potential for wildlife/power line interactions. The shallow pans in the area attract many birds during the rainy season. As in most other areas, high winds are experienced.

- Sociable Weaver nesting on HLPD poles has resulted in outages and damage to insulators; consequently the pole may even catch alight. These nest constructions need to be removed frequently.
- Sociable Weaver nests on 220 kV towers are usually situated low on the tower, but may also be found higher up on the structure. The anti-climb devices provide an ideal nesting substrate.
- We also found a fairly fresh carcass of a Guinea Fowl that appears to have collided with the line, with burn marks under the right wing area; the head and neck had been removed by a scavenger (jackal?).



Sociable Weaver nests on HLPD lines (left) cause outages, and the poles may catch fire (centre and right; photos Ann Scott)

Recommendations:

1. Monitoring

- The area has a high potential for bird collisions, especially by large raptors including vultures, and by bustards, and should be monitored regularly.

2. Address Sociable Weaver nesting problems

- Continue to seek solutions for the ongoing Sociable Weaver nesting problem; experiment with an integrated strategy, e.g. dummy pole (try using an old windmill), together with the removal of nesting material and silicon grease at the original site; investigate noise deterrents.
- Further investigate the situation in the Aranos area, where dummy poles have been used successfully.

3. Awareness

- Promote awareness about the potential threats to Pygmy Falcons nesting in Sociable Weaver Nests during nest removal operations.

WALVIS BAY (22/10/09 at Mautemanene Fire Station)

The workshop was well represented by Erongo Red (Stephen Muller, Charmain Kühn, Renier Gomachab, P Johannes, Dawid Petrus, Carles Sinvula, Nelus van Niekerk); CETN (Sue Roux), Vultures Namibia (Peter Bridgeford), Allgemeine Zeitung (Kirsten Kraft), the Republikein (Steven Beresford) and a local consultant (Ndahafa Kamime), with apologies from NamPower (local staff) and Walvis Bay CC (David Uushona).

Summary of actions

1. Monitoring and mitigation

- Monitor Walvis Bay sewage ponds (including by means of CETN bird counts).
- Investigate experimental mitigations, e.g. marking power lines, in partnership with NamPower.
- Experiment with transformers/dummy poles for Sociable Weaver and Red-Billed Buffalo-weaver nesting problems (Erongo Region.)
- Obtain more information on Buffalo-weavers: satellite tagging, ultrasonic repellents, microwave/radiation as a repellent.

2. Collect information

- Collate historical records on power line interactions.
- Collate information on costs of outages caused by wildlife/power line interactions.

3. Surveys

- Investigate potential problem areas for vultures, e.g. Namib Naukluft Park, desert mine sites.

4. Awareness

- Create awareness, especially among rural consumers (farmers), farmers' unions, Agra, posters at lodges, guides and wardens, media (Informante), NamPort, Walvis Bay airport.
- Communicate with like-minded people, work through existing working groups.

Power line survey/investigation

We investigated the area east of Walvis Bay on the C14, which is crossed by a number of power lines (including five-pole wooden structures) due to the proximity of the town. It is adjacent to the Walvis Bay sewage ponds and on the flight path of wetland birds; coastal weather conditions (fog and wind, sand storms) aggravate the

situation. Sand also tends to pile up to unsafe levels beneath the lines. We saw small flocks of White Pelicans (*Vulnerable*) regularly flying low both over and under the power lines; flamingos also use the wetlands.

Recommendations

1. Monitoring

- The area has a high potential for bird collisions, especially by waterbirds including Greater Flamingo, Lesser Flamingos and White Pelicans, and should be monitored regularly.

2. Mitigation

- Proactive mitigation in the form of marking relevant sections of the line should be investigated, in partnership with NamPower.



Top: The Walvis Bay workshop participants
Centre: Flocks of White Pelicans regularly fly over the wooden five-pole power structures along the C14.
Below: Part of the survey team (L to R): Sue Roux, Mike Scott, Charmaine Kühn and Renier Gomachab (photos Ann Scott)

WINDHOEK (20/10/09 at NamPower Training Centre)

The workshop included representatives from Namibia Bird Club (Gudrun Middendorff, Uschi Kirchner, Leona Compion); AED (Estafania Barrion); the Republikein (Elizeth Harmse); City of Windhoek (Edward Kawesha, Martin Shikongo); NARREC (Liz Komen), Enviro Dynamics (Stephanie van Zyl, Eloise Lamprecht); SAIEA (John Pallett), GRAA (Joe Walter), the project's EIS (Alice Jarvis), with apologies from NamPower (Danie Louw, Francois Binneman, Gloudi de Beer & local staff), Gobabeb (Joh Henschel) & MET-DSS (Kenneth Uiseb).



Top: The Windhoek workshop participants.

Centre: The area east of Van Eck Power Station is crossed by a multitude of power line structures, with a high potential for collisions including by raptors; note the degraded habitat.

Below: Part of the survey team (L to R): Joe Walter, Liz Komen, Gloudi de Beer, John Pallett, Mike Scott and Uschi Kirchner (photos Ann Scott)

Summary of actions

1. Initiate regular power line surveys

- Draw up a schedule with like-minded persons.
- Involve students and consider incentives.
- Observe the correct protocols, as power lines cross private land.
- Explore opportunities to collaborate with NamPower on power line surveys – try to link in and share knowledge.

2. Promote awareness

- Publicize the project through Agra “Ring”; talks at farmers’ association meetings (NAU/NLU & NNFU).
- Create awareness amongst NamPower and the REDS; municipalities.
- Work through the Namibia Bird Club.
- Involve landowners - farm owners are listed in EIAs; target tourists as well, e.g. hunters at airports, as they go out onto farms and could help report incidents.

3. Environmental Information System (EIS) & EIAs

- Share technologies on mitigations, e.g. through the project newsletter.
- Contribute information to the EIS, e.g. completed EIAs; databases of farm owners on power line routes.
- Include a bird specialist on each EIA team, as a requirement.
- Initiate screening checklists for smaller power lines.
- Assist with mapping of (smaller) power lines.

Power line survey/investigation

We investigated the area east of the Van Eck Power Station, Windhoek, under the guidance of Gloudi de Beer of NamPower. The area is crossed by a number of power lines due to the proximity of the power station, including 220kV structures. The area is heavily degraded, including by erosion, pollution and alien invasive vegetation, and has a high potential for wildlife/power line interactions. A Martial Eagle (*Endangered*) was found here on 28/7/09 with extensive burns to her left wing (see newsletter no. 2, pp3-4).

Recommendations

1. Monitoring

- Due to the high potential for bird collisions, especially by large raptors, the area should be monitored regularly.

2. Mitigation

- Proactive mitigation in the form of markers could be investigated in problematical areas.

Sincere thanks to:

All our workshop participants for their enthusiasm and contributions! NamPower and Cenored staff for their interest and willingness to facilitate the power line inspections, and for accompanying us on the surveys; NamPower (Danie Louw, Karl-Heinz Wagner, Gloudi de Beer) and Cenored and for assistance with the organization and logistics; the various venues for providing workshop facilities and refreshments; Chris van Rooyen, Liz Komen (NARREC) and Alice Jarvis (EIS) for training materials; and the European Investment Bank for sponsoring the project. (See also individual reports for full list of acknowledgements.)



Ludwig's Bustard – cause for concern
(photograph Chris van Rooyen)

LUDWIG'S BUSTARD: UPLIST TO ENDANGERED?

P. Kariuki Ndang'ang'a

Species Programme Manager for Africa, BirdLife International, Africa Partnership Secretariat, Nairobi, Kenya
Email: paul.ndanganga@birdlife.or.ke
Web: www.birdlife.org; to know more about BirdLife's Preventing Extinctions Programme, visit www.birdlife.org/extinction

9/2/10 Greetings. As you may probably be aware, BirdLife International is currently doing an online consultation to discuss possible changes to the global threat status of various species. One of the species that is under discussion is the Ludwig's Bustard (*Neotis ludwigii*; whether to uplist it to *globally Endangered*). At the moment minimal contributions have been received regarding its current status in the Namibian part of the range. This is to kindly ask you to help with the consultation or let someone who may have the relevant information to do so. An extract of the discussion topic is placed below. You can directly insert your comments by visiting the online forum at:

<<http://www.birdlifeforums.org/WebX/.2cba6bb8>>
or by sending your comments directly to me. All contributions that are used will be explicitly acknowledged in the species accounts that will appear on the BirdLife and IUCN websites, and in future publications. The initial deadline for contributions is 14 February 2009, when we will assess the contributions made and post up a draft list of preliminary decisions. You will then have two more weeks to comment further. Final decisions will be made and posted up on 28 February. The results will be fed into the 2010 IUCN Red List.

Ludwig's Bustard is currently listed as *Least Concern* on the IUCN Red List because it has a large range centred on the dry biomes of the Karoo and Namib in southern

Africa (Anderson 2000), and a global population estimated at between 56 000 and 81 000 individuals (Allan 1994). However, this estimate is now approximately 20 years old, and in this time the species is suspected to have declined as a result of collisions with overhead power lines, for which there is currently no effective mitigation (Anderson 2002). Because they are large, heavy birds, Ludwig's Bustards are extremely susceptible to these collisions, and are the second most numerous species listed on the Central Incident Register of wildlife mortalities reported on Eskom power infrastructure (Eskom-EWT 2008).

Ludwig's Bustard is currently listed as *Vulnerable* in South Africa because of an estimated decrease of up to 20% in the population over three generations (generation time estimated at 10.3 years (Birdlife International unpublished data)), stemming largely from mortality caused by these collisions (Anderson 2000). Collision rates on high voltage transmission lines in the De Aar area of the Karoo may exceed one Ludwig's Bustard per kilometre per year (Anderson 2002, Jenkins et al. 2009), and a recent survey found preliminary evidence for this level of mortality on transmission lines across the Karoo, indicating that the problem is widespread (Jenkins 2009). The extent of power lines in the Karoo in particular is vast and expanding (Jenkins & Smallie 2009), with nearly 8 000 km of medium-to-high voltage line, and over 17 000 km of lower voltage line already in place (Eskom 2009). The results of preliminary modelling of the South African population (estimated at between 50-75% of the global population (Anderson 2000)), suggest that the population may have declined/ will continue to decline by 51% over three generations, qualifying the species as at least *Vulnerable* and possibly *Endangered* on the IUCN Red List under criterion A4. Comments are welcomed.

WILDLIFE-POWER LINE INCIDENT REPORTS

Flamingo collisions

Danie Louw, email Danie.Louw@nampower.com.na
On 2/11/09, a report was received from Cronje Loftie-Eaton, Project Manager for Jyoti Structures Africa (Pty) Ltd, that several flamingos (+- 20) had collided into the new 350HVDC line power line east of Grootfontein, in the vicinity of tower 472 to 491 (Section A). The matter is under investigation, including appropriate mitigation measures.

Chris van Rooyen, email vanrooyen@gmail.com

Using the standard black and white BFD will not help much with mitigation (in my opinion) because of the nocturnal nature of the flamingo long distance movements. The BFDs were not designed to work at night. The other option might be the Mace Bird Lite which consists of a fluorescent tube attached to the conductor with a PVC spiral. This is then lit up by the ambient electric field around the conductor. The problem in my opinion with that is that the devices are fitted to the conductor, while it has been proven convincingly that the major problem is the earth wire. If the Bird Lites are fitted to the conductors, the birds might even increase altitude to miss the conductors and fly into the unmarked earth wire. Another problem is that the fluorescent tubes

have a limited life span. A new, untried option could be to use blinking solar powered aviation lights that are attached to the earthwires. This obviously has major costs implications as well. Perhaps an option would be to mark the area between towers 472 and 491 to start with, as we know this is a hot spot?

Ed: In time, an assessment should be made nationally of all lines with a collision potential (e.g. those near wetlands, vulture restaurants and popular bird migratory routes), and especially on all the lines where no EIAs were done in the past. Relevant lines in these areas should be marked with bird diverters (or other appropriate technology) as a proactive mitigation measure. Any new lines that are being planned/built should incorporate the marking of such areas with bird diverters as a compulsory requirement of the installation process.

Lappet-faced Vultures

Pieter Cloete/Karl-Heinz Wagner

Email Pieter.Cloete@nampower.com.na



14/1/2010 Three Lappet-faced Vultures collided with the Harib-Rock 132 kV line between poles 237-243, Karasburg district (28 23 24S and 19 08 50E), resulting in mortality and outages. Karl-Heinz Wagner discovered three birds while on line inspection, and a breakdown on the 132 kV line. Damage was caused by strong winds/rain and possibly other factors when the five poles fell down. On inspection of the poles we found the three birds along the line and it looks if they had collided with the line some time ago. Five poles fell on 14/1/2010. The place is 65 km south of Karasburg towards the RSA border.

Spotted Eagle Owls

Immanuel Gaweseb, email

Immanuel.Gaweseb@nampower.com.na



10/6/09 & 30/11/09: Two Spotted Eagle Owls were electrocuted, separately, on the same transformer (Keetmanshoop, Naute DAM, NDC IRR. No. 3 acc. No. 120; 26 34.745S 18 07.426E), each time resulting in mortality and an outage. To prevent further outages and electrocution of birds we can put PVC pipes over jumpers of transformers to prevent a short circuit.

Giraffe bull

Fritz Hanssen, email FHanssen@cenored.com.na

& S. Gawiseb, email sgawiseb@cenored.com.na

27/10/09 A mature giraffe bull was electrocuted on a power line, resulting in mortality. Kamanjab district, 33 kv retic – Farm Franken, No. 242 /supply point No. 8270 – 2nd pole from transformer point. The pole was damaged by termites, causing it to lean over, bringing the lines lower than the safe clearance for giraffe. The animal apparently walked with its head into the live lines. We were unable to take photos as the carcass was already removed when we arrived. A hungry community?

Another Spotted Eagle Owl

A.C. van Zyl, email AC.Van.Zyl@nampower.com.na



30/11/09: A Spotted Eagle Owl was electrocuted on a transformer on Farm Welgevonden on Leonardville Ret., Aranos, resulting in an outage and mortality. The line came from west to east and the farm house is north of the transformer. It lay on the house side of the transformer. For possible mitigation: what I can say at this stage is that we could try to put plastic sleeving over

jumpers at the transformer at these points. I think the damage is done by now, these owls you see commonly at farm stores/barns and nearly every farm has a transformer point. I will first cover the farms of incidents. One of our customers put up a cage for the owls (Farm Onreg – Leonardville). It was a wooden box on top of a pole, and yes, I did not have an incident after the box.

Erratum

The bird we reported as a juvenile bustard, that collided with a stay wire on the Namib-Kokerboom line in August 2006 (newsletter no. 2, p5), is in fact a female Namaqua Sandgrouse – thanks for your help with this ID Kevin Shaw of CapeNature (via Jessica Shaw)!

NEWSFLASHES

Student projects

Master's research project on Red-billed Buffalo-weaver and Sociable Weaver

Chris Brown, email cb@nnf.org.na

9/12/09: I have been in contact with a number of universities to see whether they would be able to supervise a Master's level student on the weaver nest problem on power-line towers, and whether they had appropriate students. One of the main causes of interrupted power supply is large nests in the power-line towers. The main species involved are Red-billed Buffalo-weavers and Sociable Weavers. Particularly during the rainy season nests cause flash-overs and can catch fire, causing further damage to the lines and to power supply. We are looking for a student to study the situation and come up with recommendations for mitigation. There are a number of options that we can think of, and I'm sure many more that a student searching the literature can add. It would be good to test different options from the perspective of efficiency and cost effectiveness. Our ideal student would be a Namibian, someone who could work fairly independently, and has a driver's licence.

Polytechnic student project to monitor potential "hotspot" lines

Liz Komen, email lizkomen@fastmail.fm

In partnership with NARREC, the NamPower/NNF project is supporting a six-month project for two students from the Polytechnic of Namibia Natural Resources/ Nature Conservation Department. This pilot project will comprise a field investigation, monitoring and evaluation on 25 km of a potential "hotspot" 220kv line and 20 km of a potential "hotspot" City of Windhoek and partly privately owned 66kv line.

The students, Wilson Muyenga and Phineas Siseho, are conducting their research along the 220kv line that runs N-S through the farms Ongos and Monte Christo. This line is a potential for collision and outage events because of a high density of birds, especially water birds and raptors. West of the line are permanent water, developed riverine forest and open plains, and east two vulture feeding stations and the Brakwater sewage ponds. Wilson and Phineas are already hard at work.

Ed: Thank you to NARREC for initiating this project, and for the considerable support being provided!

New funding for Raptor Road Count Project

Alice Jarvis, email tr_aj@mweb.com.na

4/11/09 The raptor road count project is ongoing and, thanks to new funding from the NamPower- NNF Strategic Partnership, data entry has restarted. Since the project was relaunched in June 2005 the following info has been entered into the road count database:

- Road counts totalling 150,247 km
- 50 species
- 30 counters
- 15,183 birds

Although the counts focus on raptors, the following non-raptor species may also be included, with these codes:

- Kori Bustard (KB)
- Ludwig's Bustard (LWB)
- Stanley's Bustard (SB)
- Abdim's Stork (AS)
- White Stork (WS)
- Marabou Stork (MS)
- Blue Crane (BC)
- Wattled Crane (WC)
- Crowned Crane (CC)

More count forms are waiting to be entered, as time allows. Please continue to send in your completed forms too, even those from long ago. Remember you can download raptor road count forms, guidelines and other information from www.nnf.org.na/RAPTORS/index.htm.

NLU Streekslandbou vergadering (NAU Regional meeting)

A.C. van Zyl, email AC.Van.Zyl@nampower.com.na

29/10/09 Ek was gister op Mariental – NLU Streekslandbou vergadering. Ek het my gesprek geopen met die nuutste nuusbrieff van julle en uitgebrei met voëlneste as probleem en geëindig met *Prosopis glandulosa* (meskiet). Dit het baie goed afgegaan.

Technique for setting up "dummy" poles to tranlocate Sociable Weaver nests

A.C. van Zyl, email AC.Van.Zyl@nampower.com.na

7/12/09 To start – check and mark water points of farms in area; wind directions; and where the birds' nesting and feeding grounds are. Then you can decide where to put up the dummy pole or other structures. It is difficult to make holes. Use old oil drums (200L), put the pole in it and fill with stones and sand. Now, burn all old nesting material and grass at this nesting spot. Every week, remove the new nests and put some of them in the dummy pole until the birds start moving. Make enough space available for them, otherwise they will move back. I can show you how to make a basket; it is not always easy, if one doesn't work you must try another way. My experience is that in the Kalahari the most bird nests are situated south to south east on the tree/structure. (I started these baskets in 1991 at Eskom – Van Zylsrus, Northern Cape and had great success).

