

African Waterfowl census July 2008 Uganda



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1.1 Introduction

There is a high diversity of habitats for all kinds of birds in Uganda. This includes among others the forests, woodlands, grasslands, wetlands and open waters. The diversity of habitats makes Uganda one of the richest countries in terms of birds species compared to its size in Africa. The wetlands and open waters are good places for feeding, breeding and roosting of the water birds. It is estimated that over 200 species of birds in the country are migrants. Currently, *Nature* Uganda has established sites 28 sites where regular monitoring of water birds is done every January and July. The survey is designed to strengthen the water bird monitoring program and produce a detailed analysis of habitats, trends and bird patterns in Uganda during January and July of every year.

1.2 Objectives of the surveys

The survey is designed to strengthen the water bird monitoring program and produce a detailed analysis of habitats, trends and migratory bird patterns in Uganda during January and July of every year.

Specifically the surveys are aimed at accomplishing the following;

- Providing a clear description of migratory bird patterns, including resting and breeding sites, within Uganda.
- Conducting bird surveys in July 2008, in all sites monitored within Uganda. These surveys estimate bird numbers and provide opportunities for trend analyses.
- Providing a platform for training to young enthusiastic individuals in water bird monitoring and improving the skills of the non-beginners.

1.3 Survey procedures

Attempts are always made to follow the same routes as the previous counts. Therefore the methods and modes of counts are often maintained. The counts on relatively open water are carried out on boats moving close to the shores and at a relatively slow speed. Counts on wetlands and smaller crater lakes are done on foot moving round the site. Motorable and open areas are sometimes done in slow moving vehicles with several stoppages. Difficult areas to move through are done by stationing at a single strategic point and telescopes are used. Total counts of all the water birds are made effort of and data recording sheets are provided to all the teams.

1.4 Participants for July 2008 African waterfowl censuses

The team leader for the South Western region was Richard Ssemmanda and was assisted by Michael Opige, Robert Adaraku, Moses Matsiko and Andrew Opeto. The Eastern region had Polycarp Mwima as the group leader and other participants included Michael Opige, Deo Muhumuza, Richard Ssemmanda, and Farouk Muyiga. Achilles Byaruhanga and Ambrose Mugisha led the teams for the Central and Southern region and other team members included Richard Ssemmanda, Raymond Katebaka, Michael Opige, Henry Seguya, Sarah Nambwere, Hannington Kasasa, Lydia Tushabe and Farouk Muyiga. Prof. D.E. Pomeroy led the MFNP team, which comprised of Taban Buruhan, Opige Michael, Richard Ssemmanda and Nyero.

1.5 Results on a site by site account

In the July 2008 waterfowl censuses, 29 sites were visited. Murumuri and Munyanyange are good site for the Lesser Flamingo always but registered zero this time. The site that recorded the highest number of birds was Lutembe bay with 71,642 individuals. This site is a good site for migratory birds and has consistently harbored large congregations of migrants. This was followed by Musambwa Island that recorded 62,304 individuals. Musambwa Island is famous for large congregations of the Grey-headed Gulls. Nakiwogo followed with 5337 birds, Samuka with 4336 individuals and others as shown in Table 1 below.

Table 1. Numbers of birds per site as recorded in July 2008 censuses

	Site	Nearest Town	Total number recorded
1	MFNP R.Nile	Masindi	1134
2	Airstrip Ponds	Rakai	136
3	Bagusa Crater	Kasese	34
5	Doho Rice Scheme	Butaleja	1855
6	Kasenyi Crater	Kasese	61
7	Buluguyi	Bugiri	376
8	Kazinga Channel	Kasese	2608
9	Kibimba Dam & Rice scheme	Bugiri	3085
10	Kikorongo Crater	Kasese	297
12	L.Mburo	Mbarara	276
13	Lake Kashaka (KWR)	Kasese	168
14	Lutembe Bay	Entebbe	71,642
16	Mabamba Bay	Mpigi	279
17	MacDonald's Bay	Mayuge	1272
18	Maseche Crater	Kasese	213
19	Munyanyange Crater	Kasese	498
20	Musambwa Islands	Rakai	62,304
21	Nakiwogo	Entebbe	5,337
22	Nshenyi Crater Lake	Kasese	159
23	Samuka Island	Jinja	4,336
24	Shoebill swamp	Kasese	3
26	Lake Bisina	Kumi	311
27	Lake Opeta	Katakwi	241
28	Kaku swamp	Kasese	63
29	Nyamunuka	Kasese	0
30	Murumuri	Kasese	0
	Grand Total		156,688

1.5.1 Murchison Falls National Park

The site stretches from near the top of Murchison Falls, where the River Nile flows through a rock cleft some 6m wide, to the delta at its convergence with Lake Albert. Not the whole of this site is covered during the water bird censuses. The fringes of the delta in most parts form a shallow area that is important for water birds, especially the Shoebill, Pelicans, Darters and various Heron species. The papyrus vegetation dominates these fringes. The site records both the intra-African migrants and Palearctic migrants on season but very few during the July count.

During this count, a pair of White-backed Night Herons was seen on the Western banks towards the falls.

The site had a total of 1134 individual birds with the Pied Kingfisher registering the largest number of individuals with 286 followed by Cattle Egrets with 263 individuals. White-faced Whistling Duck and African Jacana followed with 72 individuals each while the Long-tailed Cormorant, Hammerkop and Sacred Ibis recorded the least individuals with one individual each as shown in Table 2 below.

Table 2. Number of birds recorded in Murchison Falls National Park July 2008

BR	Species Name	Site	District	Nearest town	Date	No. of birds
17	Long-tailed Cormorant	Murchison Falls	Masindi	Masindi	22-7-2008	1
19	African Darter	Murchison Falls	Masindi	Masindi	22-7-2008	42
25	Grey Heron	Murchison Falls	Masindi	Masindi	22-7-2008	7
26	Goliath Heron	Murchison Falls	Masindi	Masindi	22-7-2008	14
27	Black-headed Heron	Murchison Falls	Masindi	Masindi	22-7-2008	2
28	Purple Heron	Murchison Falls	Masindi	Masindi	22-7-2008	8
30	Common Squacco Heron	Murchison Falls	Masindi	Masindi	22-7-2008	8
32	Cattle Egret	Murchison Falls	Masindi	Masindi	22-7-2008	263
33	Green-backed Heron	Murchison Falls	Masindi	Masindi	22-7-2008	2
34	Great Egret	Murchison Falls	Masindi	Masindi	22-7-2008	3
36	Little Egret	Murchison Falls	Masindi	Masindi	22-7-2008	6
38	Yellow-billed Egret	Murchison Falls	Masindi	Masindi	22-7-2008	9
39	White-backed Night Heron	Murchison Falls	Masindi	Masindi	22-7-2008	2
42	Hamerkop	Murchison Falls	Masindi	Masindi	22-7-2008	1
43	African Open-billed Stork	Murchison Falls	Masindi	Masindi	22-7-2008	19
48	Saddle-billed Stork	Murchison Falls	Masindi	Masindi	22-7-2008	2
51	Hadada Ibis	Murchison Falls	Masindi	Masindi	22-7-2008	58
54	Sacred Ibis	Murchison Falls	Masindi	Masindi	22-7-2008	1
60	White-faced Whistling Duck	Murchison Falls	Masindi	Masindi	22-7-2008	72
61	Egyptian Goose	Murchison Falls	Masindi	Masindi	22-7-2008	62
79	Spur-winged Goose	Murchison Falls	Masindi	Masindi	22-7-2008	20
80	Knob-billed Duck	Murchison Falls	Masindi	Masindi	22-7-2008	4
137	African Fish Eagle	Murchison Falls	Masindi	Masindi	22-7-2008	36
194	Grey Crowned Crane	Murchison Falls	Masindi	Masindi	22-7-2008	3
201	Black Crake	Murchison Falls	Masindi	Masindi	22-7-2008	32
225	African Jacana	Murchison Falls	Masindi	Masindi	22-7-2008	72
242	White-crowned Plover	Murchison Falls	Masindi	Masindi	22-7-2008	2
245	Long-toed Plover	Murchison Falls	Masindi	Masindi	22-7-2008	8
249	Spur-winged Plover	Murchison Falls	Masindi	Masindi	22-7-2008	31
289	Senegal Thick-knee	Murchison Falls	Masindi	Masindi	22-7-2008	3
290	Water Thick-knee	Murchison Falls	Masindi	Masindi	22-7-2008	13
298	Rock Pratincole	Murchison Falls	Masindi	Masindi	22-7-2008	4
318	White-winged Tern	Murchison Falls	Masindi	Masindi	22-7-2008	3
464	Giant Kingfisher	Murchison Falls	Masindi	Masindi	22-7-2008	2
465	Pied Kingfisher	Murchison Falls	Masindi	Masindi	22-7-2008	286
466	Malachite Kingfisher	Murchison Falls	Masindi	Masindi	22-7-2008	30
473	Grey-headed Kingfisher	Murchison Falls	Masindi	Masindi	22-7-2008	3

1.5.2 Airstrip Ponds

The Airstrip ponds are found within the Sango Bay area. Sango Bay is north of the Uganda - Tanzania border adjoining to Lake Nabugabo area to the north. The site is found at Mutukula in Rakai District. There are six ponds in total forming the site with seasonal wetland -like ponds. The ponds are covered with grasses that are characteristic of seasonally flooded grasslands.

53 Little Egret were recorded during the July 2008 counts as the highest number of individuals followed by Black Crakes with 21 individuals. The rest of the recorded species are as shown in Table 3 below.

Table 3. Water birds recorded at Airstrip Ponds July 2008

BR	Species Name	Site	District	Nearest town	Date	No. of birds
23	Little Bittern	Airstrip Ponds	Mutukula	Rakai	11/7/2008	1
28	Purple Heron	Airstrip Ponds	Mutukula	Rakai	11/7/2008	1
30	Common Squacco Heron	Airstrip Ponds	Mutukula	Rakai	11/7/2008	1
36	Little Egret	Airstrip Ponds	Mutukula	Rakai	11/7/2008	53
51	Hadada Ibis	Airstrip Ponds	Mutukula	Rakai	11/7/2008	3
54	Sacred Ibis	Airstrip Ponds	Mutukula	Rakai	11/7/2008	3
72	Yellow-billed Duck	Airstrip Ponds	Mutukula	Rakai	11/7/2008	8
92	Eurasian Marsh Harrier	Airstrip Ponds	Mutukula	Rakai	11/7/2008	2
137	African Fish Eagle	Airstrip Ponds	Mutukula	Rakai	11/7/2008	2
199	Common Moorhen	Airstrip Ponds	Mutukula	Rakai	11/7/2008	11
201	Black Crake	Airstrip Ponds	Mutukula	Rakai	11/7/2008	21
225	African Jacana	Airstrip Ponds	Mutukula	Rakai	11/7/2008	17
465	Pied Kingfisher	Airstrip Ponds	Mutukula	Rakai	11/7/2008	12
466	Malachite Kingfisher	Airstrip Ponds	Mutukula	Rakai	11/7/2008	1

1.5.3 Bagusa Crater Lake

Bagusa Crater Lake is one of the Crater Lakes that registers good numbers of the Lesser Flamingos. However, for this particular count, there was no single Lesser Flamingo recorded at this site. Bagusa Crater is a small sized saline lake with bushy edges and is located within the Kyambura wildlife reserve. When Flamingos are present, they congregate towards the muddy edges and mostly feed from the clearer center of the lake, which is a hard place to reach. Bagusa Crater Lake recorded only 7 species during this count with 34 total individuals of which 16 were Cattle Egrets. The other species recorded are as shown in Table 4 below.

Table 4. Water birds recorded at Bagusa Crater Lake July 2008

BR	Species Name	Site	District	Nearest town	Date	No. of birds
32	Cattle Egret	Bagusa crater	Kasese	Kasese	11/7/2008	16
38	Yellow-billed Egret	Bagusa crater	Kasese	Kasese	11/7/2008	3
51	Hadada Ibis	Bagusa crater	Kasese	Kasese	11/7/2008	1
54	Sacred Ibis	Bagusa crater	Kasese	Kasese	11/7/2008	9
61	Egyptian Goose	Bagusa crater	Kasese	Kasese	11/7/2008	2
238	Kittlitz's Plover	Bagusa crater	Kasese	Kasese	11/7/2008	1

249	Spur-winged Plover	Bagusa crater	Kasese	Kasese	11/7/2008	2
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1.5.4 Doho rice scheme

Doho rice scheme was formerly a seasonal wetland on the River Manafwa flood plain. Doho Rice Scheme is an area of intensive irrigated rice cultivation under farmer group management. It is adjacent to areas of natural wetland, mainly in the south. The swamps immediately to the north of the scheme have also been drained for rice growing by out growers. The monitored site consists of rice paddies and isolated water pools. The rice paddies consist of the newly cultivated plots, flooded plots and the overgrown plots. The waders, ducks and storks especially like the flooded plots. However, most of the paddies were over grown during this count. The isolated water pools provide good feeding grounds for the nematode feeding birds.

A total of 1885 individual birds were recorded with 1435 of these being Open-billed Storks. Cattle Egrets recorded 118 individuals while all the other species were recorded in moderately few numbers as in Table 5 below. No waders were recorded during this out of migration count.

Table 5. Water birds recorded at Doho rice scheme in July 2008

BR	Species Name	Site	District	Nearest town	Date	No. of birds
17	Long-tailed Cormorant	Dhoho	Butaleja	Butaleja	19-7-2008	24
27	Black-headed Heron	Dhoho	Butaleja	Butaleja	19-7-2008	15
28	Purple Heron	Dhoho	Butaleja	Butaleja	19-7-2008	3
30	Common Squacco Heron	Dhoho	Butaleja	Butaleja	19-7-2008	13
32	Cattle Egret	Dhoho	Butaleja	Butaleja	19-7-2008	118
34	Great Egret	Dhoho	Butaleja	Butaleja	19-7-2008	21
38	Yellow-billed Egret	Dhoho	Butaleja	Butaleja	19-7-2008	93
42	Hamerkop	Dhoho	Butaleja	Butaleja	19-7-2008	3
43	African Open-billed Stork	Dhoho	Butaleja	Butaleja	19-7-2008	1435
50	Yellow-billed Stork	Dhoho	Butaleja	Butaleja	19-7-2008	3
54	Sacred Ibis	Dhoho	Butaleja	Butaleja	19-7-2008	63
55	African Spoonbill	Dhoho	Butaleja	Butaleja	19-7-2008	16
194	Grey Crowned Crane	Dhoho	Butaleja	Butaleja	19-7-2008	5
201	Black Crake	Dhoho	Butaleja	Butaleja	19-7-2008	3
225	African Jacana	Dhoho	Butaleja	Butaleja	19-7-2008	6
249	Spur-winged Plover	Dhoho	Butaleja	Butaleja	19-7-2008	18
465	Pied Kingfisher	Dhoho	Butaleja	Butaleja	19-7-2008	1
466	Malachite Kingfisher	Dhoho	Butaleja	Butaleja	19-7-2008	15

1.5.5 Kasenyi Crater

This Crater Lake is just outside Queen Elizabeth National Park. It is a saline lake and sometimes harbors the Lesser Flamingos. The shores are muddy with short grasses in some parts and tall grasses in other areas. The local communities around this place take to salt mining from the lake as an income generating activity. The major interest from this lake is on the Lesser Flamingo, which is recorded occasionally but not recorded in this particular count. Only five species were recorded in the count. Kingfishers and Marabou Storks dominated the count with 28 and 20 individuals respectively. Others are shown in Table 6 below.

Table 6. Water birds recorded at Kasenyi in July 2008

BR	Species Name	Site	District	Nearest town	Date	No. of birds
49	Marabou Stork	Kasenyi	Kasese	Kasese	12/7/2008	20
50	Yellow-billed Stork	Kasenyi	Kasese	Kasese	12/7/2008	4
249	Spur-winged Plover	Kasenyi	Kasese	Kasese	12/7/2008	7
282	Black-winged Stilt	Kasenyi	Kasese	Kasese	12/7/2008	2
465	Pied Kingfisher	Kasenyi	Kasese	Kasese	12/7/2008	28

1.5.6 Lake Buluguyi

This lake is just above Ki bimba rice scheme. The open water connects to an extensive span of papyrus swamp, which eventually meets the rice scheme from the North. The papyrus is surrounding the open water area, which is a major fishing area for the local community. The shores of the lake are muddy and deep. The center of the water contains few water lilies and scattered marshes. This place also records a good number of the migrants. The highest number of individuals registered was for Open-billed Stork (146), followed by the White-winged Terns (73) and Whiskered Terns and Fulvous Whistling Ducks (25) each. Other species are as shown in table 7 below.

Table 7. Water birds recorded at Lake Buluguyi in July 2008

BR	Species Name	Site	District	Nearest town	Date	No. of birds
12	Pink-backed Pelican	L. Buluguyi	Bugiri	Bugiri	15-Jul-2008	1
17	Long-tailed Cormorant	L. Buluguyi	Bugiri	Bugiri	15-7-2008	18
25	Grey Heron	L. Buluguyi	Bugiri	Bugiri	15-7-2008	1
28	Purple Heron	L. Buluguyi	Bugiri	Bugiri	15-7-2008	6
30	Common Squacco Heron	L. Buluguyi	Bugiri	Bugiri	15-7-2008	8
36	Little Egret	L. Buluguyi	Bugiri	Bugiri	15-7-2008	15
42	Hamerkop	L. Buluguyi	Bugiri	Bugiri	15-7-2008	2
43	African Open-billed Stork	L. Buluguyi	Bugiri	Bugiri	15-7-2008	146
51	Hadada Ibis	L. Buluguyi	Bugiri	Bugiri	15-7-2008	7
59	Fulvous Whistling Duck	L. Buluguyi	Bugiri	Bugiri	15-7-2008	25
60	White-faced Whistling Duck	L. Buluguyi	Bugiri	Bugiri	15-7-2008	10
77	African Pygmy Goose	L. Buluguyi	Bugiri	Bugiri	15-7-2008	1
80	Knob-billed Duck	L. Buluguyi	Bugiri	Bugiri	15-7-2008	5
137	African Fish Eagle	L. Buluguyi	Bugiri	Bugiri	15-7-2008	1
201	Black Crake	L. Buluguyi	Bugiri	Bugiri	15-7-2008	11
215	Red-knobbed Coot	L. Buluguyi	Bugiri	Bugiri	15-7-2008	2
225	African Jacana	L. Buluguyi	Bugiri	Bugiri	15-7-2008	12
226	Lesser Jacana	L. Buluguyi	Bugiri	Bugiri	15-7-2008	1
245	Long-toed Plover	L. Buluguyi	Bugiri	Bugiri	15-7-2008	2
317	Whiskered Tern	L. Buluguyi	Bugiri	Bugiri	15-7-2008	25
318	White-winged Tern	L. Buluguyi	Bugiri	Bugiri	15-7-2008	73
465	Pied Kingfisher	L. Buluguyi	Bugiri	Bugiri	15-7-2008	3
466	Malachite Kingfisher	L. Buluguyi	Bugiri	Bugiri	15-7-2008	1

1.5.7 Kazinga Channel in Queen Elizabeth National Park

The Kazinga Channel links Lake Edward and Lake George and attracts a substantial variety of birds. The portion surrounding the peninsula is the portion which counts are done during the water fowl counts. The channel shoreline on the peninsula side is dominated by the *Vossia* grass which has become increasingly denser than before. The other shoreline opens to the grasslands of QENP and the fishing village. The site is a good place for congregations especially during the January counts. Both Palearctic and intra-African migrants are common here. During this survey, the Pied Kingfisher and the Greater Cormorant recorded the highest numbers of 902 and 401 individuals respectively. Others that followed in number included the Egyptian Goose (242), African Skimmer (180) and Spur-winged Plover (129). Other species were recorded with substantial numbers as shown in Table 8 below.

Table 8. Water birds recorded at Kazinga Channel in QENP in July 2008

BR	Species Name	Site	District	Nearest town	Date	No. of birds
11	Great White Pelican	Kazinga	Kasese	Kasese	10/7/2008	1
12	Pink-backed Pelican	Kazinga	Kasese	Kasese	10/7/2008	61
17	Long-tailed Cormorant	Kazinga	Kasese	Kasese	10/7/2008	12
18	Greater Cormorant	Kazinga	Kasese	Kasese	10/7/2008	401
25	Grey Heron	Kazinga	Kasese	Kasese	10/7/2008	21
26	Goliath Heron	Kazinga	Kasese	Kasese	10/7/2008	8
30	Common Squacco Heron	Kazinga	Kasese	Kasese	10/7/2008	13
32	Cattle Egret	Kazinga	Kasese	Kasese	10/7/2008	17
33	Green-backed Heron	Kazinga	Kasese	Kasese	10/7/2008	3
34	Great Egret	Kazinga	Kasese	Kasese	10/7/2008	2
36	Little Egret	Kazinga	Kasese	Kasese	10/7/2008	21
38	Yellow-billed Egret	Kazinga	Kasese	Kasese	10/7/2008	20
42	Hamerkop	Kazinga	Kasese	Kasese	10/7/2008	44
48	Saddle-billed Stork	Kazinga	Kasese	Kasese	10/7/2008	2
49	Marabou Stork	Kazinga	Kasese	Kasese	10/7/2008	27
50	Yellow-billed Stork	Kazinga	Kasese	Kasese	10/7/2008	37
51	Hadada Ibis	Kazinga	Kasese	Kasese	10/7/2008	45
54	Sacred Ibis	Kazinga	Kasese	Kasese	10/7/2008	5
55	African Spoonbill	Kazinga	Kasese	Kasese	10/7/2008	5
61	Egyptian Goose	Kazinga	Kasese	Kasese	10/7/2008	242
66	Red-billed Teal	Kazinga	Kasese	Kasese	10/7/2008	2
137	African Fish Eagle	Kazinga	Kasese	Kasese	10/7/2008	53
201	Black Crake	Kazinga	Kasese	Kasese	10/7/2008	102
225	African Jacana	Kazinga	Kasese	Kasese	10/7/2008	29
233	Ringed Plover	Kazinga	Kasese	Kasese	10/7/2008	1
238	Kittlitz's Plover	Kazinga	Kasese	Kasese	10/7/2008	1
248	Wattled Plover	Kazinga	Kasese	Kasese	10/7/2008	10
249	Spur-winged Plover	Kazinga	Kasese	Kasese	10/7/2008	129
282	Black-winged Stilt	Kazinga	Kasese	Kasese	10/7/2008	12
290	Water Thick-knee	Kazinga	Kasese	Kasese	10/7/2008	16
300	Common Pratincole	Kazinga	Kasese	Kasese	10/7/2008	72
306	Grey-headed Gull	Kazinga	Kasese	Kasese	10/7/2008	3
318	White-winged Tern	Kazinga	Kasese	Kasese	10/7/2008	16

331	African skimmer	Kazinga	Kasese	Kasese	10/7/2008	180
465	Pied Kingfisher	Kazinga	Kasese	Kasese	10/7/2008	902
466	Malachite Kingfisher	Kazinga	Kasese	Kasese	10/7/2008	89
473	Grey-headed Kingfisher	Kazinga	Kasese	Kasese	10/7/2008	3
84	Palm-nut Vulture	Kazinga	Kasese	Kasese	10/7/2008	1

1.5.8 Kibimba rice scheme

Kibimba Rice Scheme is composed of the marshes and the rice paddies in the formerly wetland on the Buluguyi / Buliba flood plain. It is an area of intensive irrigated rice cultivation. The rice paddies have been expanding in size over time. Two different habitat types are monitored, the Kibimba dam and the rice paddies. Kibimba dam is an open water area, which is dominated by the papyrus on its fringes and floating mats of the water lilies, water hyacinths and scattered floating marshes. The rice paddies consist of the newly cultivated plots, flooded plots and the overgrown plots. The waders, ducks and storks especially like the flooded plots.

This site has always registered high numbers of different water bird species. These include both the resident and the migrants. During the July surveys, the site registered the highest number of species (41) in total. The Cattle Egret was the most dominant with 1,344 individuals. This was followed by Hadada Ibis (243), African Jakana (194), and White-winged Tern (161) individuals. The other species recorded are as shown in the Table 9 below. The Palearctic migrants recorded included the White-winged Tern, Wood Sandpiper and Marsh Sandpiper.

Table 9. Water birds recorded at Kibimba rice scheme in July 2008

BR	Species Name	Site	District	Nearest town	Date	No. of birds
12	Pink-backed Pelican	Kibimba	Bugiri	Bugiri	16-7-2008	6
17	Long-tailed Cormorant	Kibimba	Bugiri	Bugiri	16-7-2008	79
25	Grey Heron	Kibimba	Bugiri	Bugiri	16-7-2008	9
27	Black-headed Heron	Kibimba	Bugiri	Bugiri	16-7-2008	30
28	Purple Heron	Kibimba	Bugiri	Bugiri	16-7-2008	20
30	Common Squacco Heron	Kibimba	Bugiri	Bugiri	16-7-2008	107
32	Cattle Egret	Kibimba	Bugiri	Bugiri	16-7-2008	1,344
33	Green-backed Heron	Kibimba	Bugiri	Bugiri	16-7-2008	1
36	Little Egret	Kibimba	Bugiri	Bugiri	16-7-2008	73
38	Yellow-billed Egret	Kibimba	Bugiri	Bugiri	16-7-2008	74
42	Hamerkop	Kibimba	Bugiri	Bugiri	16-7-2008	6
48	Saddle-billed Stork	Kibimba	Bugiri	Bugiri	16-7-2008	4
50	Yellow-billed Stork	Kibimba	Bugiri	Bugiri	16-7-2008	73
51	Hadada Ibis	Kibimba	Bugiri	Bugiri	16-7-2008	243
53	Glossy Ibis	Kibimba	Bugiri	Bugiri	16-7-2008	4
55	African Spoonbill	Kibimba	Bugiri	Bugiri	16-7-2008	22
59	Fulvous Whistling Duck	Kibimba	Bugiri	Bugiri	16-7-2008	44
60	White-faced Whistling Duck	Kibimba	Bugiri	Bugiri	16-7-2008	95
61	Egyptian Goose	Kibimba	Bugiri	Bugiri	16-7-2008	8
77	African Pygmy Goose	Kibimba	Bugiri	Bugiri	16-7-2008	2
79	Spur-winged Goose	Kibimba	Bugiri	Bugiri	16-7-2008	47
80	Knob-billed Duck	Kibimba	Bugiri	Bugiri	16-7-2008	91
95	African Marsh Harrier	Kibimba	Bugiri	Bugiri	16-7-2008	2

137	African Fish Eagle	Kibimba	Bugiri	Bugiri	16-7-2008	4
194	Grey Crowned Crane	Kibimba	Bugiri	Bugiri	16-7-2008	28
199	Common Moorhen	Kibimba	Bugiri	Bugiri	16-7-2008	61
201	Black Crake	Kibimba	Bugiri	Bugiri	16-7-2008	33
203	Purple Gallinule	Kibimba	Bugiri	Bugiri	16-7-2008	6
215	Red-knobbed Coot	Kibimba	Bugiri	Bugiri	16-7-2008	1
225	African Jacana	Kibimba	Bugiri	Bugiri	16-7-2008	194
245	Long-toed Plover	Kibimba	Bugiri	Bugiri	16-7-2008	69
249	Spur-winged Plover	Kibimba	Bugiri	Bugiri	16-7-2008	9
252	Common Sandpiper	Kibimba	Bugiri	Bugiri	16-7-2008	1
256	Wood Sandpiper	Kibimba	Bugiri	Bugiri	16-7-2008	6
257	Common Greenshank	Kibimba	Bugiri	Bugiri	16-7-2008	15
259	Marsh Sandpiper	Kibimba	Bugiri	Bugiri	16-7-2008	88
263	Great Snipe	Kibimba	Bugiri	Bugiri	16-7-2008	1
317	Whiskered Tern	Kibimba	Bugiri	Bugiri	16-7-2008	5
318	White-winged Tern	Kibimba	Bugiri	Bugiri	16-7-2008	161
465	Pied Kingfisher	Kibimba	Bugiri	Bugiri	16-7-2008	8
466	Malachite Kingfisher	Kibimba	Bugiri	Bugiri	16-7-2008	11

1.5.9 Lake Kikorongo

This is a crater lake within Queen Elizabeth National Park, which provides significant number of water bird counts especially migrants. It is a fresh water lake whose size fluctuates depending on the amount of rainfall received. It provides congregations of Little Grebe at the right season. This Crater Lake is small in size and with muddy edges. The muddy shoreline is a good feeding ground for the waders.

During the July survey, a total of 297 individual birds were recorded with 84 and 75 individuals being Little Grebe and Egyptian Goose respectively. Kittlitz's Plover with 54 individual birds followed these with migrants recorded including Little Grebe.

Table 10. Water birds recorded at Lake Kikorongo in July 2008

BR	Species Name	Site	District	Nearest town	Date	No. of birds
4	Little Grebe	Kikorongo crater	Kasese	Kasese	12/7/2008	84
32	Cattle Egret	Kikorongo crater	Kasese	Kasese	12/7/2008	1
38	Yellow-billed Egret	Kikorongo crater	Kasese	Kasese	12/7/2008	1
49	Marabou Stork	Kikorongo crater	Kasese	Kasese	12/7/2008	4
51	Hadada Ibis	Kikorongo crater	Kasese	Kasese	12/7/2008	1
61	Egyptian Goose	Kikorongo crater	Kasese	Kasese	12/7/2008	75
137	African Fish Eagle	Kikorongo crater	Kasese	Kasese	12/7/2008	6
238	Kittlitz's Plover	Kikorongo crater	Kasese	Kasese	12/7/2008	54
239	Three-banded Plover	Kikorongo crater	Kasese	Kasese	12/7/2008	15
249	Spur-winged Plover	Kikorongo crater	Kasese	Kasese	12/7/2008	27
252	Common Sandpiper	Kikorongo crater	Kasese	Kasese	12/7/2008	1
290	Water Thick-knee	Kikorongo crater	Kasese	Kasese	12/7/2008	20
331	African skimmer	Kikorongo crater	Kasese	Kasese	12/7/2008	1
465	Pied Kingfisher	Kikorongo crater	Kasese	Kasese	12/7/2008	7

1.5.10. Lake Mbuo National Park

Lake Mbuo wetland is a system consisting of open water and papyrus dominated permanent wetland. It is home to papyrus endemic species and a very important ground for Palearctic and Afro-tropical migrant birds during adverse conditions. The shorelines contain *Vossia* grass in some parts while hanging thickets are common in others. During this survey, the White-backed Night Heron was significant among species seen but the Pied Kingfisher had the highest number of individuals (110) followed by the African Fish Eagle (82). Other species are as shown in table 11 below.

Table 11. Water birds recorded at Lake Mbuo National Park in July 2008

BR	Species Name	Site	District	Nearest town	Date	No. of birds
17	Long-tailed Cormorant	L. Mbuo	Mbarara	Mbarara	13-7-2008	2
28	Purple Heron	L. Mbuo	Mbarara	Mbarara	13-7-2008	1
33	Green-backed Heron	L. Mbuo	Mbarara	Mbarara	13-7-2008	13
39	White-backed Night Heron	L. Mbuo	Mbarara	Mbarara	13-7-2008	2
40	Night Heron	L. Mbuo	Mbarara	Mbarara	13-7-2008	6
42	Hamerkop	L. Mbuo	Mbarara	Mbarara	13-7-2008	3
51	Hadada Ibis	L. Mbuo	Mbarara	Mbarara	13-7-2008	2
95	African Marsh Harrier	L. Mbuo	Mbarara	Mbarara	13-7-2008	1
137	African Fish Eagle	L. Mbuo	Mbarara	Mbarara	13-7-2008	82
201	Black Crake	L. Mbuo	Mbarara	Mbarara	13-7-2008	21
216	African Finfoot	L. Mbuo	Mbarara	Mbarara	13-7-2008	2
225	African Jacana	L. Mbuo	Mbarara	Mbarara	13-7-2008	2
245	Long-toed Plover	L. Mbuo	Mbarara	Mbarara	13-7-2008	2
248	Wattled Plover	L. Mbuo	Mbarara	Mbarara	13-7-2008	2
252	Common Sandpiper	L. Mbuo	Mbarara	Mbarara	13-7-2008	1
465	Pied Kingfisher	L. Mbuo	Mbarara	Mbarara	13-7-2008	110
466	Malachite Kingfisher	L. Mbuo	Lyantonde	Mbarara	13-7-2008	24

1.5.11 Lake Kashaka landing site

This site includes Kashaka fish landing site and the shores along it. The shore from which counts are made is covered with the *Vossia* grass and just above it is short savannah grassland of Kyambura wildlife reserve. This place has been recording significant numbers of Pelicans and 63 Pink-backed Pelicans were recorded. Among species with the highest numbers during this survey also included the Grey-crowned Crane with 38 individuals. Other species recorded are as in table 12 below.

Table 12. Water birds recorded at Lake Kashaka in July 2008

BR	Species Name	Site	District	Nearest town	Date	No. of birds
12	Pink-backed Pelican	Kashaka	Kasese	Kasese	11/7/2008	63
27	Black-headed Heron	Kashaka	Kasese	Kasese	11/7/2008	1
36	Little Egret	Kashaka	Kasese	Kasese	11/7/2008	1
38	Yellow-billed Egret	Kashaka	Kasese	Kasese	11/7/2008	1

42	Hamerkop	Kashaka	Kasese	Kasese	11/7/2008	16
49	Marabou Stork	Kashaka	Kasese	Kasese	11/7/2008	17
50	Yellow-billed Stork	Kashaka	Kasese	Kasese	11/7/2008	3
51	Hadada Ibis	Kashaka	Kasese	Kasese	11/7/2008	2
137	African Fish Eagle	Kashaka	Kasese	Kasese	11/7/2008	4
194	Grey Crowned Crane	Kashaka	Kasese	Kasese	11/7/2008	38
238	Kittlitz's Plover	Kashaka	Kasese	Kasese	11/7/2008	17
249	Spur-winged Plover	Kashaka	Kasese	Kasese	11/7/2008	5

1.5.12 Lutembe bay

Lutembe bay is a sheltered and almost cut off wetland from Lake Victoria's main waters. It is shallow and dominated by papyrus (*Cyperus papyrus*) in most of its parts. The bay extends into a *Miscanthus* swamp and merges with forest remnants to the north and neighbours with Rosebud flower farm. Lutembe bay is one of the major sites for congregations of especially migratory birds. Thousands of individual birds and several of species have been recorded before. The wetland has several scattered marshland that is used as the roosting ground by the birds.

The July surveys recorded a total of 32 species. The White-winged Terns were the most represented species with 70,550 individuals. Grey-headed Gulls followed with 396 individuals while Long-tailed Cormorant (107), Ruff (104) and Yellow-billed Duck (103) followed. Other species are as shown in Table 13 below. The migrants recorded included Black-headed Gulls, White-winged Tern, Ruff and the Sandpipers among others. The records here showed the highest numbers of migrants compared to the rest of the sites.

Table 13. Water birds recorded at Lutembe Bay July 2008

BR	Species Name	Site	District	Nearest town	Date	No. of birds
BR	Species Name	Site	District	Nearest town	Date	No. Individuals
17	Long-tailed Cormorant	Lutembe	Wakiso	Entebbe	23-08-2008	107
18	Greater Cormorant	Lutembe	Wakiso	Entebbe	23-08-2008	7
25	Grey Heron	Lutembe	Wakiso	Entebbe	23-08-2008	2
30	Common Squacco Heron	Lutembe	Wakiso	Entebbe	23-08-2008	5
32	Cattle Egret	Lutembe	Wakiso	Entebbe	23-08-2008	6
36	Little Egret	Lutembe	Wakiso	Entebbe	23-08-2008	12
38	Yellow-billed Egret	Lutembe	Wakiso	Entebbe	23-08-2008	1
42	Hamerkop	Lutembe	Wakiso	Entebbe	23-08-2008	1
43	African Open-billed Stork	Lutembe	Wakiso	Entebbe	23-08-2008	32
48	Saddle-billed Stork	Lutembe	Wakiso	Entebbe	23-08-2008	2
53	Glossy Ibis	Lutembe	Wakiso	Entebbe	23-08-2008	8
72	Yellow-billed Duck	Lutembe	Wakiso	Entebbe	23-08-2008	103
79	Spur-winged Goose	Lutembe	Wakiso	Entebbe	23-08-2008	5
137	African Fish Eagle	Lutembe	Wakiso	Entebbe	23-08-2008	4
194	Grey Crowned Crane	Lutembe	Wakiso	Entebbe	23-08-2008	4
201	Black Crane	Lutembe	Wakiso	Entebbe	23-08-2008	2
225	African Jacana	Lutembe	Wakiso	Entebbe	23-08-2008	18
245	Long-toed Plover	Lutembe	Wakiso	Entebbe	23-08-2008	88
252	Common Sandpiper	Lutembe	Wakiso	Entebbe	23-08-2008	3
256	Wood Sandpiper	Lutembe	Wakiso	Entebbe	23-08-2008	43

257	Common Greenshank	Lutembe	Wakiso	Entebbe	23-08-2008	5
259	Marsh Sandpiper	Lutembe	Wakiso	Entebbe	23-08-2008	4
270	Curlew Sandpiper	Lutembe	Wakiso	Entebbe	23-08-2008	19
272	Little Stint	Lutembe	Wakiso	Entebbe	23-08-2008	25
278	Black-tailed Godwit	Lutembe	Wakiso	Entebbe	23-08-2008	2
279	Ruff	Lutembe	Wakiso	Entebbe	23-08-2008	104
282	Black-winged Stilt	Lutembe	Wakiso	Entebbe	23-08-2008	19
306	Grey-headed Gull	Lutembe	Wakiso	Entebbe	23-08-2008	396
314	Black-headed Gull	Lutembe	Wakiso	Entebbe	23-08-2008	4
318	White-winged Tern	Lutembe	Wakiso	Entebbe	23-08-2008	70,550
320	Gull-billed Tern	Lutembe	Wakiso	Entebbe	23-08-2008	29
	Slender-billed Gull	Lutembe	Wakiso	Entebbe	23-08-2008	32

1.5.13 Mabamba Bay

Mabamba is an extensive marsh stretching through a long narrow bay, fringed with papyrus towards the main body of Lake Victoria. *Miscanthus* and *Cyperus* species dominate, but there is a narrow open water channel and a small patch of *Nymphaea caerulea*. There are also areas of *Cladium mariscus*, and sometimes drifting papyrus swamp islands. The area where the counts are done include the famous Shoebill point, the trails within the papyrus dominated side and part of the open water stretching just off the main trail. During the July survey, a total of 279 individual birds were recorded with White-winged Terns (140) having the highest number. Marabou Storks (42) and African Jacana (23) followed respectively while others are shown in table 14 below

Table 14. Water birds recorded at Mabamba Bay in July 2008

BR	Species Name	Site	District	Nearest town	Date	No. of birds
17	Long-tailed Cormorant	Mabamba Bay	Mpigi	Mpigi	5/7/2008	5
28	Purple Heron	Mabamba Bay	Mpigi	Mpigi	5/7/2008	6
32	Cattle Egret	Mabamba Bay	Mpigi	Mpigi	5/7/2008	1
34	Great Egret	Mabamba Bay	Mpigi	Mpigi	5/7/2008	1
36	Little Egret	Mabamba Bay	Mpigi	Mpigi	5/7/2008	1
41	Shoebill	Mabamba Bay	Mpigi	Mpigi	5/7/2008	3
42	Hamerkop	Mabamba Bay	Mpigi	Mpigi	5/7/2008	2
49	Marabou Stork	Mabamba Bay	Mpigi	Mpigi	5/7/2008	42
60	White-faced Whistling Duck	Mabamba Bay	Mpigi	Mpigi	5/7/2008	2
72	Yellow-billed Duck	Mabamba Bay	Mpigi	Mpigi	5/7/2008	12
137	African Fish Eagle	Mabamba Bay	Mpigi	Mpigi	5/7/2008	3
199	Common Moorhen	Mabamba Bay	Mpigi	Mpigi	5/7/2008	1
201	Black Crake	Mabamba Bay	Mpigi	Mpigi	5/7/2008	6
225	African Jacana	Mabamba Bay	Mpigi	Mpigi	5/7/2008	23
245	Long-toed Plover	Mabamba Bay	Mpigi	Mpigi	5/7/2008	9
306	Grey-headed Gull	Mabamba Bay	Mpigi	Mpigi	5/7/2008	2
317	Whiskered Tern	Mabamba Bay	Mpigi	Mpigi	5/7/2008	2
318	White-winged Tern	Mabamba Bay	Mpigi	Mpigi	5/7/2008	140
465	Pied Kingfisher	Mabamba Bay	Mpigi	Mpigi	5/7/2008	5
466	Malachite Kingfisher	Mabamba Bay	Mpigi	Mpigi	5/7/2008	13

1.5.14 McDonald's Bay

Located on the Lake Victoria shore in Mayuge, the site monitored is a long stretch of winding shores. It covers the rocky outcrops and the papyrus shores and the nearby open water. The rocky outcrops within and at the shores of the lake provide roosting grounds for most birds. To one side, the shores are mainly covered with papyrus and the other opens up to the heavily degraded natural forest. The shoreline is muddy in some areas and very shallow and rocky to the other parts. McDonald's bay registered 20 species and of these 774 individuals were Little Egrets, which recorded the highest number. The Long-tailed Cormorants followed with 233 individuals while others had moderately fewer numbers as shown in table 15 below.

Table 15. Water birds recorded at McDonald's Bay in July 2008

BR	Species Name	Site	District	Nearest town	Date	No. of birds
12	Pink-backed Pelican	McDonald Bay	Iganga	Iganga	20-7-2008	4
17	Long-tailed Cormorant	McDonald Bay	Iganga	Iganga	20-7-2008	233
18	Greater Cormorant	McDonald Bay	Iganga	Iganga	20-7-2008	63
27	Black-headed Heron	McDonald Bay	Iganga	Iganga	20-7-2008	3
30	Common Squacco Heron	McDonald Bay	Iganga	Iganga	20-7-2008	3
32	Cattle Egret	McDonald Bay	Iganga	Iganga	20-7-2008	64
33	Green-backed Heron	McDonald Bay	Iganga	Iganga	20-7-2008	2
36	Little Egret	McDonald Bay	Iganga	Iganga	20-7-2008	774
42	Hamerkop	McDonald Bay	Iganga	Iganga	20-7-2008	4
43	African Open-billed Stork	McDonald Bay	Iganga	Iganga	20-7-2008	1
61	Egyptian Goose	McDonald Bay	Iganga	Iganga	20-7-2008	16
72	Yellow-billed Duck	McDonald Bay	Iganga	Iganga	20-7-2008	2
137	African Fish Eagle	McDonald Bay	Iganga	Iganga	20-7-2008	3
215	Red-knobbed Coot	McDonald Bay	Iganga	Iganga	20-7-2008	11
225	African Jacana	McDonald Bay	Iganga	Iganga	20-7-2008	16
249	Spur-winged Plover	McDonald Bay	Iganga	Iganga	20-7-2008	2
252	Common Sandpiper	McDonald Bay	Iganga	Iganga	20-7-2008	4
318	White-winged Tern	McDonald Bay	Iganga	Iganga	20-7-2008	25
465	Pied Kingfisher	McDonald Bay	Iganga	Iganga	20-7-2008	39
466	Malachite Kingfisher	McDonald Bay	Iganga	Iganga	20-7-2008	3

1.5.15 Maseche Crater Lake

Maseche Crater Lake is a small narrow seasonal lake, located within Kyambura wildlife reserve. This lake dries up during the dry season and leaves behind huge quantities of open or bare mud. The edges of the lake are covered with mostly the sedges and other short grasses which the animals can graze on. All together with other near by saline lakes, they contribute significant numbers of the Lesser Flamingos during the migratory season. However, during this count, only one Flamingo was recorded throughout and at this lake. The site registered ten species doubling the number of species of the January 2008 survey. Black-winged Stilts dominated the number of individual birds with a total of 165 followed by the Sacred Ibis with 24 individuals while others are shown in table 16 below.

Table 16. Water birds recorded at Maseche Crater Lake in July 2008

BR	Species Name	Site	District	Nearest town	Date	No. of birds
32	Cattle Egret	Maseche	Kasese	Kasese	11/7/2008	2
36	Little Egret	Maseche	Kasese	Kasese	11/7/2008	13
54	Sacred Ibis	Maseche	Kasese	Kasese	11/7/2008	24
57	Lesser Flamingo	Maseche	Kasese	Kasese	11/7/2008	1
137	African Fish Eagle	Maseche	Kasese	Kasese	11/7/2008	2
233	Ringed Plover	Maseche	Kasese	Kasese	11/7/2008	1
238	Kittlitz's Plover	Maseche	Kasese	Kasese	11/7/2008	2
239	Three-banded Plover	Maseche	Kasese	Kasese	11/7/2008	1
249	Spur-winged Plover	Maseche	Kasese	Kasese	11/7/2008	2
282	Black-winged Stilt	Maseche	Kasese	Kasese	11/7/2008	165

1.5.16 Lake Munyanyange in Katwe

Munyanyange is one of the crater lakes just outside Queen Elizabeth National Park but a part of the Important Bird Area. This lake is part of the Kazinga wildlife sanctuary. Munyanyange is a saline lake well known for the Lesser Flamingos. The Crater Lake is adjacent to Katwe Township and just before Katwe salt lake. The shores are muddy with occasional short grasses. However, it is susceptible to a multitude of interruptions from grazing domestic animals and humans. In this survey, a total of 14 species were recorded. Gull-billed Terns had the highest individual numbers (100) followed by Kittlitz's Plover with a total of 95 individuals. A number of migrants were recorded and included Gull-billed Tern, White-winged Terns, Pied Avocet and Sandpipers among others. The individual numbers of other species are as shown in Table 17 below.

Table 17. Water birds recorded at Lake Munyanyange in July 2008

BR	Species Name	Site	District	Nearest town	Date	No. of birds
12	Pink-backed Pelican	L. Munyanyange	Kasese	Kasese	10/7/2008	1
32	Cattle Egret	L. Munyanyange	Kasese	Kasese	10/7/2008	1
36	Little Egret	L. Munyanyange	Kasese	Kasese	10/7/2008	74
49	Marabou Stork	L. Munyanyange	Kasese	Kasese	10/7/2008	19
54	Sacred Ibis	L. Munyanyange	Kasese	Kasese	10/7/2008	15
60	White-faced Whistling Duck	L. Munyanyange	Kasese	Kasese	10/7/2008	9
61	Egyptian Goose	L. Munyanyange	Kasese	Kasese	10/7/2008	25
238	Kittlitz's Plover	L. Munyanyange	Kasese	Kasese	10/7/2008	95
249	Spur-winged Plover	L. Munyanyange	Kasese	Kasese	10/7/2008	25
252	Common Sandpiper	L. Munyanyange	Kasese	Kasese	10/7/2008	42
282	Black-winged Stilt	L. Munyanyange	Kasese	Kasese	10/7/2008	69
283	Pied Avocet	L. Munyanyange	Kasese	Kasese	10/7/2008	21
318	White-winged Tern	L. Munyanyange	Kasese	Kasese	10/7/2008	2
320	Gull-billed Tern	L. Munyanyange	Kasese	Kasese	10/7/2008	100

1.5.17 Musambwa islands

Musambwa islands are composed of three rocky islands. These three rocky islands are about 3 km offshore in Sango Bay. The largest of the islands covers about 5 ha, and the next about 3 ha, whilst the smallest is just a rocky outcrop in the lake. The two larger ones are sparsely vegetated with shrubs and short, weather-beaten trees, especially of *Ficus* species. The shoreline has no fringing swamp or sandy beaches. The islands record the largest number of the Grey-headed Gulls. This is not a prominent site for the migratory species although some may be recorded but not in large numbers.

A total of 15 species were recorded from the Islands in this survey less by two species from the January survey. Grey-headed Gulls had the highest individual numbers with a total 56,792 individuals. These were followed by the Long-tailed cormorants (4757), Little Egret (435) and Greater Cormorants (148) respectively. Other species recorded very few individuals as in table 18 below with only one migrant, the White-winged Tern recording only four individuals.

Table 18. Water birds recorded at Musambwa Islands July 2008

BR	Species Name	Site	District	Nearest town	Date	No. of birds
12	Pink-backed Pelican	Musambwa Island	Rakai	Kyotera	10/7/2008	10
17	Long-tailed Cormorant	Musambwa Island	Rakai	Kyotera	10/7/2008	4757
18	Greater Cormorant	Musambwa Island	Rakai	Kyotera	10/7/2008	148
25	Grey Heron	Musambwa Island	Rakai	Kyotera	10/7/2008	5
32	Cattle Egret	Musambwa Island	Rakai	Kyotera	10/7/2008	1
36	Little Egret	Musambwa Island	Rakai	Kyotera	10/7/2008	435
43	African Open-billed Stork	Musambwa Island	Rakai	Kyotera	10/7/2008	2
54	Sacred Ibis	Musambwa Island	Rakai	Kyotera	10/7/2008	121
61	Egyptian Goose	Musambwa Island	Rakai	Kyotera	10/7/2008	7
201	Black Crake	Musambwa Island	Rakai	Kyotera	10/7/2008	11
249	Spur-winged Plover	Musambwa Island	Rakai	Kyotera	10/7/2008	11
306	Grey-headed Gull	Musambwa Island	Rakai	Kyotera	10/7/2008	56,792
318	White-winged Tern	Musambwa Island	Rakai	Kyotera	10/7/2008	4

1.5.18 Nakiwogo area

Nakiwogo bay is found in Entebbe and next to Entebbe international airport. The site monitored is about one and a half hours boat ride to reach. It is extensive and has spots of varying characteristics: the sand banks, the rocky outcrops and the papyrus shores. The sand banks are more evident when the water levels are low and most of it is submerged when water levels increase. There are many rocky outcrops within the lake and these are roosting grounds for most birds. To the side of the airport, the shores are mainly covered with papyrus. The shoreline is muddy and very shallow forming marsh beds in some parts. During the July census, a total of 28 species was registered. Among these, the White-winged Tern was most dominant with a total of 1728 individuals. Other species following in number included the Grey-headed Gull (1042), Long-tailed Cormorant (1026), Greater Cormorant (556) and Little Egret (430) while others were as recorded in table 19 below.

Table 19. Water birds recorded at Nakiwogo area in July 2008

BR	Species Name	Site	District	Nearest town	Date	No. of birds
12	Pink-backed Pelican	Nakiwogo	Wakiso	Entebbe	6/7/2008	20
17	Long-tailed Cormorant	Nakiwogo	Wakiso	Entebbe	6/7/2008	1026
18	Greater Cormorant	Nakiwogo	Wakiso	Entebbe	6/7/2008	556
25	Grey Heron	Nakiwogo	Wakiso	Entebbe	6/7/2008	26
27	Black-headed Heron	Nakiwogo	Wakiso	Entebbe	6/7/2008	2
30	Common Squacco Heron	Nakiwogo	Wakiso	Entebbe	6/7/2008	2
32	Cattle Egret	Nakiwogo	Wakiso	Entebbe	6/7/2008	4
36	Little Egret	Nakiwogo	Wakiso	Entebbe	6/7/2008	430
38	Yellow-billed Egret	Nakiwogo	Wakiso	Entebbe	6/7/2008	2
42	Hamerkop	Nakiwogo	Wakiso	Entebbe	6/7/2008	8
43	African Open-billed Stork	Nakiwogo	Wakiso	Entebbe	6/7/2008	64
51	Hadada Ibis	Nakiwogo	Wakiso	Entebbe	6/7/2008	5
54	Sacred Ibis	Nakiwogo	Wakiso	Entebbe	6/7/2008	8
60	White-faced Whistling Duck	Nakiwogo	Wakiso	Entebbe	6/7/2008	18
61	Egyptian Goose	Nakiwogo	Wakiso	Entebbe	6/7/2008	82
72	Yellow-billed Duck	Nakiwogo	Wakiso	Entebbe	6/7/2008	58
79	Spur-winged Goose	Nakiwogo	Wakiso	Entebbe	6/7/2008	5
95	African Marsh Harrier	Nakiwogo	Wakiso	Entebbe	6/7/2008	13
137	African Fish Eagle	Nakiwogo	Wakiso	Entebbe	6/7/2008	10
199	Common Moorhen	Nakiwogo	Wakiso	Entebbe	6/7/2008	1
225	African Jacana	Nakiwogo	Wakiso	Entebbe	6/7/2008	15
245	Long-toed Plover	Nakiwogo	Wakiso	Entebbe	6/7/2008	4
249	Spur-winged Plover	Nakiwogo	Wakiso	Entebbe	6/7/2008	32
282	Black-winged Stilt	Nakiwogo	Wakiso	Entebbe	6/7/2008	2
306	Grey-headed Gull	Nakiwogo	Wakiso	Entebbe	6/7/2008	1042
307	Lesser Black-backed Gull	Nakiwogo	Wakiso	Entebbe	6/7/2008	108
318	White-winged Tern	Nakiwogo	Wakiso	Entebbe	6/7/2008	1,728
465	Pied Kingfisher	Nakiwogo	Wakiso	Entebbe	6/7/2008	66

1.5.19 Nshenyi Crater Lake

Nshenyi Crater Lake is one of the seven major lakes in Kyambura wildlife reserve and one of the three significant saline lakes. Being a saline lake, Nshenyi is one of the usual places to locate the Lesser Flamingos in significant numbers. Nonetheless, there was no single Lesser Flamingo recorded at the site during this survey. Only six species were recorded most of which were Cattle Egrets (72). Sacred Ibis (42) and Little Grebe (40) followed in numbers respectively while others are as shown in Table 20 below.

Table 20. Water birds recorded at Nshenyi Crater Lake in July 2008

BR	Species Name	Site	District	Nearest town	Date	No. of birds
4	Little Grebe	Nshenyi crater	Kasese	Kasese	11/7/2008	40
25	Grey Heron	Nshenyi crater	Kasese	Kasese	11/7/2008	1
27	Black-headed Heron	Nshenyi crater	Kasese	Kasese	11/7/2008	1
32	Cattle Egret	Nshenyi crater	Kasese	Kasese	11/7/2008	72
54	Sacred Ibis	Nshenyi crater	Kasese	Kasese	11/7/2008	42

249	Spur-winged Plover	Nshenyi crater	Kasese	Kasese	11/7/2008	3
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1.5.20 Samuka Island

This is a small and unique island, which is a breeding ground for many birds. The island is found in Lake Victoria a few minutes on boat away from source of the Nile. There are over 50 species of both migratory and resident birds. The island is one of the known breeding sites for Long-tailed Cormorants and Little Egrets. The Island was previously natural but has been modified into a simple recreation center. The July counts normally register fewer numbers compared to the January counts. The site recorded only twelve species in all for this survey. The most dominant of the species was the Long-tailed Cormorant with 2006 individuals followed by the Greater Cormorant with a total of 1212 individual birds. The other species seen are as in Table 21 below.

Table 21. Water birds recorded at Samuka Island in July 2008

BR	Species Name	Site	District	Nearest town	Date	No. of birds
12	Pink-backed Pelican	Samuka	Jinja	Jinja	20-7-2008	5
17	Long-tailed Cormorant	Samuka	Jinja	Jinja	20-7-2008	2006
18	Greater Cormorant	Samuka	Jinja	Jinja	20-7-2008	1212
27	Black-headed Heron	Samuka	Jinja	Jinja	20-7-2008	1
32	Cattle Egret	Samuka	Jinja	Jinja	20-7-2008	246
36	Little Egret	Samuka	Jinja	Jinja	20-7-2008	818
43	African Open-billed Stork	Samuka	Jinja	Jinja	20-7-2008	6
54	Sacred Ibis	Samuka	Jinja	Jinja	20-7-2008	17
249	Spur-winged Plover	Samuka	Jinja	Jinja	20-7-2008	10
252	Common Sandpiper	Samuka	Jinja	Jinja	20-7-2008	2
290	Water Thick-knee	Samuka	Jinja	Jinja	20-7-2008	3
	Dimorphic Egret	Samuka	Jinja	Jinja	20-7-2008	10

1.5.21 Shoebill Swamp

This is found within Queen Elizabeth National Park. The site is found a few kilometers from Lake Kikorongo. This swamp fills up during the rainy season and drains during the dry season, a major characteristic of a seasonal wetland. The wetland has many Phoenix plants and is covered with grasses that are characteristic of seasonally flooded grasslands. Only three species of bird were recorded during the July counts with a single individual for each as show in table 22 below.

Table 22. Water birds recorded at Shoebill Swamp in July 2008

BR	Species Name	Site	District	Nearest town	Date	No. of birds
25	Grey Heron	Shoebill swamp	Kasese	Kasese	12/7/2008	1
27	Black-headed Heron	Shoebill swamp	Kasese	Kasese	12/7/2008	1
51	Hadada Ibis	Shoebill swamp	Kasese	Kasese	12/7/2008	1

1.5.22 Lake Bisina

Lake Bisina is a shallow freshwater lake with a thin strip of papyrus swamp. The shallow areas are dominated by water lilies. It is used as a feeding ground by wading birds. The site normally surveyed is the shallow end with water lilies and a papyrus swamp strip. Though this site is very

important for the Ducks, few were recorded during this survey. During this survey, a total of only 23 species were recorded with the Long-tailed Cormorant (116) recording the highest individual numbers. The White-faced Whistling Duck recorded 49 individuals coming next to the Long-tailed Cormorant. The other species recorded are as shown in Table 23 below.

Table 23. Water birds recorded at Lake Bisina in July 2007

BR	Species Name	Site	District	Nearest town	Date	No. of birds
17	Long-tailed Cormorant	L. Bisina	Kumi	Kumi	17-7-2008	116
23	Little Bittern	L. Bisina	Kumi	Kumi	17-7-2008	3
25	Grey Heron	L. Bisina	Kumi	Kumi	17-7-2008	1
27	Black-headed Heron	L. Bisina	Kumi	Kumi	17-7-2008	1
28	Purple Heron	L. Bisina	Kumi	Kumi	17-7-2008	9
30	Common Squacco Heron	L. Bisina	Kumi	Kumi	17-7-2008	16
38	Yellow-billed Egret	L. Bisina	Kumi	Kumi	17-7-2008	2
43	African Open-billed Stork	L. Bisina	Kumi	Kumi	17-7-2008	28
50	Yellow-billed Stork	L. Bisina	Kumi	Kumi	17-7-2008	2
60	White-faced Whistling Duck	L. Bisina	Kumi	Kumi	17-7-2008	49
77	African Pygmy Goose	L. Bisina	Kumi	Kumi	17-7-2008	2
202	Allen's Gallinule	L. Bisina	Kumi	Kumi	17-7-2008	1
203	Purple Gallinule	L. Bisina	Kumi	Kumi	17-7-2008	1
215	Red-knobbed Coot	L. Bisina	Kumi	Kumi	17-7-2008	5
225	African Jacana	L. Bisina	Kumi	Kumi	17-7-2008	34
226	Lesser Jacana	L. Bisina	Kumi	Kumi	17-7-2008	4
245	Long-toed Plover	L. Bisina	Kumi	Kumi	17-7-2008	7
249	Spur-winged Plover	L. Bisina	Kumi	Kumi	17-7-2008	1
307	Lesser Black-backed Gull	L. Bisina	Kumi	Kumi	17-7-2008	1
318	White-winged Tern	L. Bisina	Kumi	Kumi	17-7-2008	7
465	Pied Kingfisher	L. Bisina	Kumi	Kumi	17-7-2008	19
466	Malachite Kingfisher	L. Bisina	Kumi	Kumi	17-7-2008	2

1.5.23 Lake Opeta

This is one of the remaining intact wetland marshes in Uganda. It is predominantly an extensive swamp of *Vossia cuspidata* and graduating into dry *Hyparrhenia* grasslands savannas. The wetland is of great importance for the conservation of birds. The side from which counts are done has *Vossia* grass on the edges and water lilies on the open waterside. The water is deep and has floating marshes. Floating Islands characterize the lake and blocking of count ways is relatively common. The place used to record large numbers of the Ducks but not the case now. In the July survey, twenty species were recorded in total with only three species of duck. The Long-tailed Cormorant had a total of 112 individuals as the highest of totals followed by the Long-toed Plover with only 25 individuals. Other species included Open-billed Storks (16), Cattle Egrets and more as shown in table 24 below.

Table 24. Water birds recorded at Lake Opeta in July 2008

BR	Species Name	Site	District	Nearest town	Date	No. of birds
17	Long-tailed Cormorant	L. Opeta	Kumi	Kumi	17-7-2008	112
23	Little Bittern	L. Opeta	Kumi	Kumi	17-7-2008	1

25	Grey Heron	L. Opeta	Kumi	Kumi	17-7-2008	1
28	Purple Heron	L. Opeta	Kumi	Kumi	17-7-2008	12
30	Common Squacco Heron	L. Opeta	Kumi	Kumi	17-7-2008	11
32	Cattle Egret	L. Opeta	Kumi	Kumi	17-7-2008	14
33	Green-backed Heron	L. Opeta	Kumi	Kumi	17-7-2008	1
38	Yellow-billed Egret	L. Opeta	Kumi	Kumi	17-7-2008	3
43	African Open-billed Stork	L. Opeta	Kumi	Kumi	17-7-2008	16
60	White-faced Whistling Duck	L. Opeta	Kumi	Kumi	17-7-2008	2
77	African Pygmy Goose	L. Opeta	Kumi	Kumi	17-7-2008	8
79	Spur-winged Goose	L. Opeta	Kumi	Kumi	17-7-2008	3
92	Eurasian Marsh Harrier	L. Opeta	Kumi	Kumi	17-7-2008	1
95	African Marsh Harrier	L. Opeta	Kumi	Kumi	17-7-2008	3
201	Black Crake	L. Opeta	Kumi	Kumi	17-7-2008	3
225	African Jacana	L. Opeta	Kumi	Kumi	17-7-2008	10
226	Lesser Jacana	L. Opeta	Kumi	Kumi	17-7-2008	4
245	Long-toed Plover	L. Opeta	Kumi	Kumi	17-7-2008	25
465	Pied Kingfisher	L. Opeta	Kumi	Kumi	17-7-2008	7
466	Malachite Kingfisher	L. Opeta	Kumi	Kumi	17-7-2008	4

1.5.24. Kaku swamp

This swamp is along the Masaka-Mbarara road and is famous for its big numbers of the Grey-crowned Crane. It is characterized by small water ponds with water lilies and is surrounded by farmland. This time round, only 4 Grey-crowned Cranes were recorded during the survey.

Table 25. Water birds recorded at Kaku swamp in July 2008

BR	Species Name	Site	District	Nearest town	Date	No. of birds
12	Pink-backed Pelican	Kaku swamp	Kasese	Kasese	14-7-2008	2
28	Purple Heron	Kaku swamp	Kasese	Kasese	14-7-2008	1
38	Yellow-billed Egret	Kaku swamp	Kasese	Kasese	14-7-2008	8
43	African Open-billed Stork	Kaku swamp	Kasese	Kasese	14-7-2008	10
51	Hadada Ibis	Kaku swamp	Kasese	Kasese	14-7-2008	14
54	Sacred Ibis	Kaku swamp	Kasese	Kasese	14-7-2008	11
72	Yellow-billed Duck	Kaku swamp	Kasese	Kasese	14-7-2008	1
194	Grey Crowned Crane	Kaku swamp	Kasese	Kasese	14-7-2008	4
225	African Jacana	Kaku swamp	Kasese	Kasese	14-7-2008	1

1.6 Survey results (Species account)

A total of 86 species were recorded from the 29 sites during the July counts. Most of the species were White-winged Terns (72,709), with the largest numbers recorded from Nakiwogo. This was followed by the Grey-headed Gulls (58,235) most of which were recorded from Musambwa Islands. Long-tailed Cormorant had 8498 individuals and then followed by Little Egret with 2666 individuals. The other species that were recorded were not in large numbers and their respective numbers are as shown in the Table 28 below.

Table 26. Results of the Water bird census showing sites and species recorded during July 2008

Species Name	Air	Bag	Dho	Kak	KHY	Kas	Kaz	Kib	Kik	bis	Bul	Mbu	Mun	Ope	Lut	Mab	Mas	McD	MFNP	Mus	Nak	Nsh	Sam	Sho	Grand Total	
African Darter																			42						42	
African FinF												2														2
African Fish Eagle	2					4	53	4	6		1	82			4	3	2	3	36		10				210	
African Jacana	17		6	1			29	194		34	12	2		10	18	23		16	72		15				449	
African Marsh Harrier									2			1		3								13			19	
African Open-billed Stork			1435	10							28	146			16	32			1	19	2	64		6	1759	
African Pygmy Goose								2		2	1			8											13	
African skimmer							180		1																181	
African Spoonbill			16				5	22																	43	
Allen's Gallinule										1															1	
Black Crane	21		3				102	33			11	21		3	2	6			32	11					245	
Black-headed Gull															4										4	
Black-headed Heron			15			1		30		1								3	2		2	1	1	1	57	
Black-tailed Godwit															2										2	
Black-winged Stil					2		12						69		19		165				2				269	
Cattle Egret		16	118				17	1344	1				1	14	6	1	2	64	263	1	4	72	246		2170	
Common Greenshank								15							5										20	
Common Moorhen	11							61								1						1			74	
Common Pratincole							72																		72	
Common Sandpiper								1	1			1	42		3			4					2		54	
Common Squacco Heron	1		13				13	107		16	8			11	5			3	8		2				187	
Curlew Sandpipe															19										19	
Dimorphic Egret																							10		10	
Egyptian Goose		2					242	8	75				25					16	62	7	82				519	
Eurasian Marsh Harrier	2													1											3	
Fulvous Whistling Duck								44			25														69	
Giant Kingfisher																			2						2	
Glossy Ibis								4							8										12	
Goliath Heron							8												14						22	
Great Egret			21				2									1			3						27	
Great Snipe								1																	1	
Great White Pelican							1																		1	
Greater Cormorant							401							7				63		148	556		1212		2387	
Green-backed Heron							3	1				13		1				2	2						22	
Grey Crowned Crane			5	4		38		28							4				3						82	
Grey Heron							21	9		1	1			1	2				7	5	26	1		1	75	
Grey-headed Gull							3								396	2				56792	1042				58235	
Grey-headed Kingfisher							3												3						6	
Gull-billed Tern													100		29										129	
Hadada Ibis	3	1		14		2	45	243	1		7	2							58		5			1	382	
Hamerkop			3			16	44	6			2	3			1	2		4	1		8				90	
Kittlitz's Plover		1				17	1		54					95				2							170	
Knob-billed Duck								91			5								4						100	
Lesser Black-backed Gull										1												108			109	
Lesser Flamingo																	1								1	
Lesser Jacana										4	1			4											9	
Little Bittern	1									3				1											5	

Little Egret	53					1	21	73				15		74		12	1	13	774	6	435	430			818		2726
Little Grebe									84														40				124
Little Stint																25											25
Long-tailed Cormorant			24				12	79			116	18	2		112	107	5		233	1	4757	1026			2006		8498
Long-toed Plover								69		7	2	2			25	88	9			8			4				214
Malachite Kingfisher	1		15				89	11		2	1	24			4		13		3	30							193
Marabou Stork					20	17	27		4						19												129
Marsh Sandpiper								88								4											92
Night Heron													6														6
Palm-nut Vulture							1																				1
Pied Avocet														21													21
Pied Kingfisher	12		1		28		902	8	7	19	3	110		7		5		39	286			66				1493	
Pink-backed Pelican				2		63	61	6			1			1				4		10	20			5		173	
Purple Gallinule								6		1																	7
Purple Heron	1		3	1				20		9	6	1		12		6				8							67
Red-billed Teal							2																				2
Red-knobbed Coot							1			5	2							11								19	
Ringed Plover						1											1										2
Rock Pratincole																						4					4
Ruff																104											104
Sacred Ibis	3	9	63	11			5							15			24		1	121	8	42	17			319	
Saddle-billed Stork							2	4								2				2							10
Senegal Thick-knee																				3							3
Shoebill																	3										3
Slender-billed Gull																32											32
Spur-winged Goose								47								3	5			20			5				80
Spur-winged Plover		2	18	11	7	5	129	9	27	1				25				2	2	31	11	32	3	10		325	
Three-banded Plover										15								1									16
Water Thick-knee							16		20											13					3		52
Wattled Plover							10						2														12
Whiskered Tern								5				25					2										32
White-backed Night Heron														2						2							4
White-crowned Plover																				2							2
White-faced Whistling Duck								95		49	10		9	2		2				72			18			257	
White-winged Tern						16	161		7	73		2		70550	140			25	3	4	1728					72709	
Wood Sandpiper								6								43											49
Yellow-billed Duck	8			1												103	12		2				58				184
Yellow-billed Egret		3	93	8		1	20	74	1	2				3	1					9			2				217
Yellow-billed Stork			3		4	3	37	73		2																	122
Grand Total	136	34	1855	63	61	168	2608	3085	297	311	376	276	498	241	71642	279	213	1272	1134	82304	5337	159	4336	3		156688	

Key = MFNP=Murchison Falls National Park, Air=Airstrip Ponds, Bag=Bagusa Crater, Doh=Doho Rice Scheme, Khy=Kasenyi Crater, Kaz=Kazinga Channel, Kibimba Rice Scheme, Kik=Kikorongo Crater, Bis=L.Bisina, Mbu=L.Mburo, Kas=Lake Kashaka (KWR), Lut=Lutembe Bay, McD=MacDonald's Bay, Mas=Maseche Crater, Mun=Munyanyang Crater, Mus=Musambwa Islands, Nsh=Nshenyi Crater Lake, Sam=Samuka Island, Sho=Shoebill swamp, Nak=Nakiwogo, Ope= Lake Opeta, Nya= Nyamunuka, Mur= Murumuri, Bul= Buluguyi, Mab = Mabamba Bay

1.7 Financial report July 2008