

African Waterfowl Census

Report for Uganda

January 2014



*Nature*Uganda

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1.0 Introduction

Uganda as a country is strategically located to cover a high diversity of habitats suitable for all kinds of birds. 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 bird 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 28 sites where regular monitoring of water birds is done every January and July.

1.1 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 every year in January and July, in all sites monitored within Uganda. These surveys estimate bird numbers using total counts 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 experienced participants.

2.0 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 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 stopovers. Difficult areas to move through are done by standing at a single strategic point and then telescopes are used to scan the area. Efforts are made to ensure that total counts of all the water birds in the target sites are made. Data recording sheets are provided to all the teams.

2.1 Participants for January 2014 African waterfowl censuses

Participants for these counts are volunteers mainly interested in birding. They include NU staff and membership plus the Uganda Wildlife Authority rangers/guides. The teams who participated in these counts are in the table 2.1.1 below.

Table 2.1.1: Team members who participated in the January Waterfowl Counts 2014

Site/Region	Team members
Kaku wetland	Phionah Mwesige, Tony Mutagubya
Makanaga Bay	Kasasa Hannington, Phionah Mwesige, Joel Wako, Andrew Ssozi
Mabamba Bay	Dianah Nalwanga, Keneth sseguya, Muyambi Vincent, patrick Ssemazzi, Alosius Mwanje, Musoke Billy
Murchison Falls	Dianah Nalwanga, Keneth Sseguya, Sandra Sayuni, George Kaphu, Taban Bruhan
Lutembe Bay	Roger Skeen
Nakiwogo Bay	Roger Skeen
Musambwa Islands & Airstrip Ponds	Roger Skeen & Henry Sseguya
Eastern Region:- Kibimba Rice Scheme & Dam, Doho Rice Scheme, Lake Opeta & Lake Bisina.	Dianah Nalwanga, policarp Mwima, Keneth Sseguya, Shaban Okurut
Western Region:- Lake Mburo NP, Queen Elizabeth NP and Kyamburo WR.	Derek Pomwroy, Roger Skeen, Lydia Tushabe, Keneth Sseguya, Andrew Opeto, Robert Adaruku,

3.0 Results from the survey

3.1 Site accounts

In the January 2014 waterfowl census, 167,587 individuals belonging to 97 species were recorded in the 23 sites surveyed. The site that recorded the highest number of birds was Musambwa Islands with 68,735 individuals of birds, followed by Lutembe Bay with 66,357 individuals and then Maseche crater in Kyambura wildlife Reserve with 5,709 individuals. The site with the highest number of species was Kazinga Channel with 53 species, followed by Kibimba Rice Scheme with 46 species, and then Murchison Falls Nile Delta 45 (Table 3.1.1).

3.2 Species accounts

Among the 97 species recorded during the January counts, the White-winged Tern had the highest number of individuals (75,928), with Lutembe bay accounting for 86% of these individuals. This was followed by the Grey-headed Gull (62,716) with Musambwa Islands accounting for 99% of these individuals. The Lesser Flamingo followed with 4,571 individuals 99.5% of these being recorded in Maseche Crater in Kyambura Wildlife Reserve in Queen Elizabeth National Park (Table 3.1.2).

Notable sightings for this count include the Little Grebe recorded in 5 sites with Nshenyi Crater having 64% of the individuals of this species, the White Stork only recorded in Kibimba Rice Scheme with 63 individuals, the Garganey recorded in only Kibimba RC and Nakiwogo bay each with 30 individuals, Great White Pelican with 99% of its population on Kikorongo Crater and the Painted Snipe with 34 individuals in Doho Rice Scheme (Table 2). The other species that were recorded and their respective numbers in the sites surveyed are shown in the Table 3.1.2 below.

Table 3.1.1: Number of bird species and individuals recorded for sites surveyed in January 2014 waterfowl counts.

ID	Site Name	Number of Individuals	Number of Species
1	Kazinga Channel	4,179	53
2	Kibimba Rice Scheme	3,945	46
3	Murchison Falls A.Nile	1,140	45
4	Nakiwogo Bay	5,426	42
5	Lutembe Bay	66,357	40
6	Shoebill Swamp	587	36
7	Doho Rice Scheme	2,303	29
8	Kaku Wetland	762	28
9	Lake Opeta	529	26
10	Mabamba Bay	2,816	24
11	Makanaga Bay	3,558	23
12	Lake Kikorongo	235	23
13	Lake Bisina	396	22
14	Airstrip Ponds	98	22
15	Lake Mburo	366	19
16	Musambwa Islands	68,735	15
17	Lake Maseche	5,709	13
18	Lake Nshenyi	96	11
19	Kashaka Landing Site	35	10
20	Lake Bagusa	227	7
21	Lake Katwe	36	6
22	Lake Munyanyange	21	5
23	Kasenyi Crater Lake	31	3
Total		167,587	97

Table 3.1.2: Results from the Waterfowl census showing sites and species recorded in January 2014

BR.	Species Name	Airstrip Ponds	Doho Rice Scheme	Kaku Wetland	Kasenyi Crater Lake	Kashaka Landing Site	Kazinga Channel	Kibimba Rice Scheme	Lake Bagusa	Lake Bisina	Lake Katwe	Lake Kikorongo	Lake Maseche	Lake Mburo	Lake Munyanyange	Lake Nshenyi	Lake Opeta	Lutembe Bay	Mabamba Bay	Makanaga Bay	Murchison Falls A.Nile	Musambwa Islands	Nakiwogo Bay	Shoebill Swamp	Total
4	Little Grebe	1		18					10			11				72									112
11	Great White Pelican					3						41													44
12	Pink-backed Pelican	1		2	7	9	6					10									1	90	31	18	175
17	Long-tailed Cormorant		88	4		89	64			195							216	30	15	27	20	1962	1053		3763
18	Greater Cormorant					555														4	9	1416	648		2632
19	African Darter													1							54				55
23	Little Bittern																4								4
25	Grey Heron	1	3	9		36	27		13			3					13	5			19	7	37	13	186
26	Goliath Heron			1		8				3				1			3		1		15			1	33
27	Black-headed Heron		23	2			93		2							2	2		2					2	128
28	Purple Heron	1	6			1	8		7					2			15		7	3	9			3	62
30	Common Squacco Heron	1	44	4	1	26	32		30			1		4			53	20	2	5	16		12	23	274
31	Rufous-bellied Heron		1	1																					2
32	Cattle Egret		110	2		23	125	35	4						2		4	15	13		98		225	6	662
33	Green-backed Heron					7								14			4				1		1		27
34	Great Egret		15			37	1											4	1		17		10	2	87
36	Little Egret		101	2	2	62	154					1	1					49		1	17	270	496	10	1166
37	Black-crowned Night Heron																				2				2
38	Yellow-billed Egret		28				229												5		12			1	275
40	Night Heron					3								4											7
41	Shoebill																		1						1

BR.	Species Name	Airstrip Ponds	Doho Rice Scheme	Kaku Wetland	Kasenyi Crater Lake	Kashaka Landing Site	Kazinga Channel	Kibimba Rice Scheme	Lake Bagusa	Lake Bisina	Lake Katwe	Lake Kikorongo	Lake Maseche	Lake Mburo	Lake Mtunyanyange	Lake Nshenyi	Lake Opeta	Lutembe Bay	Mabamba Bay	Makanaga Bay	Murchison Falls A.Nile	Musambwa Islands	Nakiwogo Bay	Shoebill Swamp	Total
42	Hamerkop	2	4			3	55	13						28				2	2	1				2	112
43	African Open-billed Stork		161	17			3	185		6							9	12		1	6		18		418
44	Abdim's Stork		1					27																	28
45	White Stork							63																	63
46	Woolly-necked Stork							1																	1
48	Saddle-billed Stork			2				2										2			2				8
49	Marabou Stork					1		2						6	3						8		7		27
50	Yellow-billed Stork						22	9				5	1						30		8				75
51	Hadada Ibis			2			36	221	1								1	3			42		4	5	315
53	Glossy Ibis			1														2			6		9		18
54	Sacred Ibis	1	1	4			43	158	6				18			4					11	52	11	6	315
55	African Spoonbill		26				1	110				4													141
57	Lesser Flamingo				7				8		6		4550												4571
59	Fulvous Whistling Duck		50					302													54				406
60	White-faced Whistling Duck		385	409				257		15							43	6	1	61				65	1242
61	Egyptian Goose						76	5				34	2			2		2			26	13	48	184	392
67	Hottentot Teal			2																					2
69	Garganey							30															30		60
72	Yellow-billed Duck	19		41														36		70			55		221
77	African Pygmy Goose							4																	4
79	Spur-winged Goose	3		12				3												2	14				34
80	Knob-billed Duck	1	62	2				49													2				116
84	Palm-nut Vulture						2									1									3

BR.	Species Name	Airstrip Ponds	Doho Rice Scheme	Kaku Wetland	Kasenyi Crater Lake	Kashaka Landing Site	Kazinga Channel	Kibimba Rice Scheme	Lake Bagusa	Lake Bisina	Lake Katwe	Lake Kikorongo	Lake Maseche	Lake Mburo	Lake Mtunyanyange	Lake Nshenyi	Lake Opeta	Lutembe Bay	Mabamba Bay	Makanaga Bay	Murchison Falls A.Nile	Musambwa Islands	Nakiwogo Bay	Shoebill Swamp	Total
92	Eurasian Marsh Harrier					1	17		3							4				2		2	2	2	31
95	African Marsh Harrier					1	2		1							1	5	7	3	1				1	22
137	African Fish Eagle					46			1		2			61			1	6	1	6	38		6	5	173
144	Osprey															1				1					2
194	Grey Crowned Crane	2		170				28																2	202
199	Common Moorhen			5				20									2		1			3	3		34
201	Black Crake	19	19	4			20	3		10				9			14	4	2	3	26	3	2	3	141
203	Purple Swamphen							2		9							9			1					21
215	Red-knobbed Coot							1																	1
216	African Finfoot													12											12
225	African Jacana	14	6	24			39	209		19				6			19	14	47	105	29		53	53	637
226	Lesser Jacana									12							12		6						30
227	Painted Snipe		34																						34
230	Caspian Plover						14																		14
233	Ringed Plover						20											115					4	3	142
235	White-fronted Plover						1																		1
238	Kittlitz's Plover		401		2	8	22					4			12									25	474
239	Three-banded Plover	2																							2
241	Grey Plover						1																		1
245	Long-toed Plover	2		9			3			4							5	31	29	19	33		13	36	184
248	Wattled Plover	11		6			17					1		2							9			5	51
249	Spur-winged Plover		5		15	10	196	1			5	3	2		3			1		8	56		39	12	356
252	Common Sandpiper	2	1			1	57	224		1	2	3	1	4		2	1	3	2		5	1	26	5	341

BR.	Species Name	Airstrip Ponds	Doho Rice Scheme	Kaku Wetland	Kasenyi Crater Lake	Kashaka Landing Site	Kazinga Channel	Kibimba Rice Scheme	Lake Bagusa	Lake Bisina	Lake Katwe	Lake Kikorongo	Lake Maseche	Lake Mburo	Lake Munyanyange	Lake Nshenyi	Lake Opeta	Lutembe Bay	Mabamba Bay	Makanaga Bay	Murchison Falls A.Nile	Musambwa Islands	Nakiwogo Bay	Shoebill Swamp	Total
255	Spotted Redshank																	1							1
256	Slender-billed Gull					1												9					54		64
256	Wood Sandpiper	5	697		6	33	1037	1	1		2	8	7		1	1	36	7	3	3		28	8	1884	
257	Common Greenshank	1	14			20	13			3	10			1			21					15		98	
258	Green Sandpiper						1						1												2
259	Marsh Sandpiper		3			18					19	4			1		3						3	5	56
262	Common Snipe	1															1							2	4
264	African Snipe																				1				1
270	Curlew Sandpiper					28						16						32					24	6	106
272	Little Stint					34						29	100					93					22	23	301
278	Black-tailed Godwit					1											5				1				7
279	Ruff					3						22	244					25					98	34	426
282	Black-winged Stilt			4		19	85	166		19	5	760			2		31			1		33	13	1138	
283	Pied Avocet									1															1
289	Senegal Thick-knee																				12				12
290	Water Thick-knee				9	206						2		8											225
298	Rock Pratincole																				4				4
300	Collared Pratincole																							2	2
306	Grey-headed Gull					160											11		140			62240	165		62716
307	Lesser Black-backed Gull																					10	12		22
314	Black-headed Gull					10																1	14		25
317	Whiskered Tern																4						4	1	9
318	White-winged Tern					21	92		39				18		8	54	65635	2600	3081			2660	1720		75928

320	Gull-billed Tern						290											49		10			198		547
325	Caspian Tern																	2							2
331	African skimmer						338															157			495
464	Giant Kingfisher																					4			4
465	Pied Kingfisher	5	8	3			1434	7		12		7		176			24	27	27	2	239	7	192		2170
466	Malachite Kingfisher	3	6			2	40	1		9				20			15	5	7	2	49		1		160
473	Grey-headed Kingfisher						2																		2
	Individuals	98	2303	762	31	35	4179	3945	227	396	36	235	5709	366	21	96	529	66357	2816	3558	1140	68735	5426	587	167587
	Species	22	29	28	3	10	53	46	7	22	6	23	13	19	5	11	26	40	24	23	45	15	42	36	97