

African Waterfowl Census Report for Uganda

July 2011



November 2011

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.1 Introduction.....	2
1.2 Objectives of the surveys.....	2
1.3 Survey procedures.....	2
1.4 Participants for July 2011 African waterfowl censuses.....	2
1.5 Results from the survey.....	2
1.5.1 Site accounts.....	2
1.5.2 Species accounts.....	3

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1: Number of bird species and individuals recorded for sites surveyed in July 2011 waterfowl counts.....	3
Table 2: Results from the Waterfowl census showing sites and species recorded in July 2011.....	4

1.1 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, *NatureUganda* has established 28 sites where regular monitoring of water birds is done every January and July.

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 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.

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 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.

1.4 Participants for July 2011 African waterfowl censuses

Due to limited funds some of the counts were not done for this period in the Eastern, Central and Southern regions of the country. The South Western region had Roger Skeen as the team leader and assisted by Lydia Tushabe, Sandra Sayuni, Moses Matsiko, Andrew Opeto, Benjamin and Robert Adaruku. Only two sites were done in the central region by one team led by Roger Skeen assisted by Lydia Tushabe and Sandra Sayuni. In MFNP, the team comprised of wellborn Ojara, Michael Opige, Roger Skeen, and Danae Sheehan and was led by Achilles Byaruhanga.

1.5 Results from the survey

1.5.1 Site accounts

In the July 2011 waterfowl census, 14,754 individuals belonging to 83 species were recorded in the 15 sites surveyed. The site that recorded the highest number of birds was Nakiwogo Bay with 3,710 individuals followed by Munyanyange Crater Lake with 3,054 individuals and then Kazinga Channel with 2,829 individuals. The site

with the highest number of species was Kazinga Channel (41), followed by Nakiwogo bay (40) and then Murchison Falls Nile Delta (37) as shown in the table 1 below.

Table 1: Number of bird species and individuals recorded for sites surveyed in July 2011 waterfowl counts

Site Name	No. Individuals	No. Species
Bagusa Crater Lake	1,196	11
Kasenya Crater Lake	55	5
Kashaka Crater Lake	94	11
Kazinga Channel	2,829	41
Kikorongo Crater Lake	299	20
Lake Bisina	233	23
Lake Mburo	444	17
Lake Opeta	103	15
Lutembe Bay	970	31
Maseche Crater Lake	218	7
Munyanyange Crater Lake	3,054	22
Murchison Falls Nile Delta	952	37
Nakiwogo Bay	3,710	40
Nshenyi Crater Lake	593	10
Shoebill Swamp	4	2
Total	14,754	83

1.5.2 Species accounts

Among the 83 species recorded from the 15 sites surveyed during the July counts, the Lesser Flamingo had the highest numbers of individuals recorded with 2,707, 99% of which were from Munyanyange Crater Lake in Queen Elizabeth NP (QENP). This was followed by the Pied Kingfisher with 1,964 individuals 67% of them from Kazinga Channel in QENP and then the Long-tailed Cormorant with 1,292 individuals.

Notable sightings for this count include the Caspian Tern (1) recorded on Lutembe Bay, Dwarf Bittern (3) recorded on Lake Opeta, Little Bitter (1) on Lake Bisina, Common Moorhen (1) on Nakiwogo Bay, Rock Pratincole (2) on the Nile Delta in Murchison falls NP, White-backed Night heron (2) on Lake Mburo and the Greater Painted snipe (2) recorded on Munyanyange Crater Lake. The other species that were recorded and their respective numbers in the sites surveyed are shown in the Table 2 below.

Table 2: Results from the Waterfowl census showing sites and species recorded in July 2011

Species Name	Bagusa Crater	Kasenyi Crater	Kashaka Crater	Kazinga Channel	Kikorongo Crater	Lake Bisina	Lake Mburo	Lake Opeta	Lutembe Bay	Maseche Crater	Munyanyange Crater	Murchison Falls	Nakiwogo Bay	Nshenyi Crater	Shoebill Swamp	Total Individuals
African Darter							1					62				63
African Finfoot							10									10
African Fish Eagle	1		2	51			90		4			25	12			185
African Jacana				58		27	6	4	6			57	52		2	212
African Marsh Harrier									2							2
African Open-billed Stork						23		1	40				18			82
African skimmer				113	1							16				130
African Spoonbill				5							22					27
Black Crake				33		21	23	3	2			25	4		2	113
Black-crowned Night Heron							11					3				14
Black-headed Gull									5				5			10
Black-headed Heron				1		1								1		3
Black-tailed Godwit											6					6
Black-winged Stilt	432	6							44		53		4	52		591
Caspian Tern									1							1
Cattle Egret	589		1	25	31	2			3	107		22	95	240		1115
Collared Pratincole				44	2											46
Common Greenshank				4					10		2					16
Common Moorhen													1			1
Common Sandpiper			1	1	9							2	1			14
Common Squacco Heron			3	17		21	1	5	9				5			61
Curlew Sandpiper				2	7				13							22
Dwarf Bittern								3								3
Egyptian Goose	4			157	64					2	43	109	42	2		423
Eurasian Marsh Harrier							1									1
Fulvous Whistling Duck												10				10
Giant Kingfisher												2				2
Glossy Ibis									56		1	3	51			111
Goliath Heron				8				3				7	1			19
Great Egret	1			34				3				15	9	2		64
Great White Pelican				21							23		2			46
Greater Cormorant				326					1				416			743
Greater Painted Snipe											2					2
Green-backed Heron				5		5	33					2	1			46
Grey Crowned Crane	2		30									7	2			41
Grey Heron			1	23		2			2	1		12	30			71
Grey-headed Gull									248				479			727

Species Name	Bagusa Crater	Kasenyi Crater	Kashaka Crater	Kazinga Channel	Kikorongo Crater	Lake Bisina	Lake Mburo	Lake Opeta	Lutembe Bay	Maseche Crater	Muranyange	Murchision Falls	Nakiwogo Bay	Nshenyi Crater	Shoebill Swamp	Total Individuals
Grey-headed Kingfisher				5												5
Gull-billed Tern									172				28			200
Hadada Ibis				31	2		1			2		79		3		118
Hamerkop	1		4	73			33		6	1		3	5	2		128
Hottentot Teal					10							12				22
Kittlitz's Plover		23	35	32	34				1			29				154
Knob-billed Duck				9								12				21
Lesser Black-backed Gull												1	22			23
Lesser Flamingo	17									2	2688					2707
Lesser Jacana						18		15								33
Little Bittern						1										1
Little Egret			2	20					25		30	5	803			885
Little Grebe					55	1								223		279
Long-tailed Cormorant				18		58		44	48			2	1122			1292
Long-toed Plover					2	10	2	8	34			16	10			82
Malachite Kingfisher				86		8	41	4	7			32	8			186
Marabou Stork			6	11								21				38
Osprey													1			1
Palm-nut Vulture				3												3
Pied Avocet					1						23					24
Pied Kingfisher		6		1293	8	9	165	2	15			316	150			1964
Pink-backed Pelican				8		1		1					17			27
Purple Heron				1		9		6	2			15				33
Purple Swamphen						7						2				9
Red-knobbed Coot													28			28
Rock Pratincole												2				2
Ruff					11							10		2		23
Rufous-bellied Heron						2										2
Sacred Ibis	117			3						103	50	1	20	61		355
Saddle-billed Stork				1					2			4				7
Senegal Plover					9											9
Senegal Thick-knee												4				4
Slender-billed Gull									33				31			64
Spur-winged Goose						1						11				12
Spur-winged Plover	31	13	9	148	18	3					13	42	24	4		305
Three-banded Plover				1	14											15
Water Thick-knee		7		66	16		16				3	12	4			124
Wattled Plover				9			8		2							19

Species Name	Bagusa Crater	Kasenyi Crater	Kashaka Crater	Kazinga Channel	Kikorongo Crater	Lake Bisina	Lake Mburo	Lake Opeta	Lutembe Bay	Maseche Crater	Muryanyange	Murchision Falls	Nakiwogo Bay	Nshenyi Crater	Shoebill Swamp	Total Individuals
White-backed Night Heron							2									2
White-faced Whistling Duck						2					6	21				29
White-winged Tern				10		1			129				22			162
Wood Sandpiper	1				2				9		4		4			20
Woolly-necked Stork					3									4		7
Yellow-billed Duck									39				126			165
Yellow-billed Egret				4				1				1				6
Yellow-billed Stork				69								4	53			126