

African Waterfowl Census

Report for Uganda

July 2014



***Nature*Uganda**

Prepared By

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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 July 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 July Waterfowl Counts 2014

Site/Region	Team members
Kaku wetland	Phionah Mwesige (PM), Dianah Nalwanga (DN), Keneth Sseguya (KS), Ismail Hassan (IH), Judith Mirembe (JM).
Mabamba Bay	DN, Sandra Sayuni (SS), JM, Andrew Ssozi, Kakuru Ronald (KR), [Musoke Billy, Alosius Mwanje, Kasasa Hannington (MWETA)]
Makanaga Bay	DN, PM, KS, JM
Lutembe Bay	DN, Penninah Kyasiimire, KS, JM, IH, Dalaus Katende (LWUA)
Nakiwogo Bay	DN, KS, PM, SS
Musambwa Islands & Airstrip Ponds	Roger Skeen (RS), KS, Henry Sseguya
Northern Region:- Murchison Falls	RS, George Kaphu
Eastern Region:- Kibimba Rice Scheme & Dam, Doho Rice Scheme, Lake Opeta & Lake Bisina.	DN, PM, Geoffrey Akule, Sarah Nachuha
Western Region:- Lake Mburo NP, Queen Elizabeth NP and Kyamburo WR.	DN, RS, KS, Bentique, Everest, Jameson Muhumuza, Moses Karuhanga, Jimmy Kitembo, Peter Achoroi, Bazil Alidria.

3.0 Results from the survey

3.1 Site accounts

In the July 2014 waterfowl census, 56,573 individuals belonging to 85 species were recorded in the 23 sites surveyed. The site that recorded the highest number of birds was Musambwa Islands with 37,930 individuals of birds, followed by Kibimba Rice Scheme with 3,825 individuals and Kazinga Channel with 3,261 individuals. The site with the highest number of species was Murchison Falls Nile Delta with 43 bird species followed by Kazinga Channel and Lutembe Bay with 41 species and then Kibimba Rice Scheme with 40 (Table 3.1.1).

3.2 Species Accounts

Among the 85 species recorded during the July counts, the Grey-headed Gull had the highest number of individuals (32,460), followed by the Long-tailed Cormorant (6,271) with Musambwa Islands accounting for 98% and 72 % of individuals of these species respectively. This was followed by the Pied Kingfisher (2,095) with 58% of these individuals being recorded on Kazinga Channel in Queen Elizabeth National Park (Table 3.1.2).

Notable sightings for this count include the White-crowned Lapwing recorded on Murchison Falls, Allen's Gallinule, White-backed Night Heron (2 individuals), African Finfoot (7) recorded in Lake Mburo, White Stork and Black-winged Pratincole in Kikorongo, African Crake and Painted Snipe in Doho Rice Scheme, Rufous-bellied Heron in Airstrip Ponds and Ruddy Turnstone (4) on Kazinga Channel. 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 July 2014 waterfowl counts. (Sites in order of species Rank)

ID	Site Name	Number of Individuals	Number of Species
1	Murchison Falls Nile Delta	1,126	43
2	Kazinga Channel	3,261	41
3	Lutembe Bay	1,471	41
4	Kibimba Rice Scheme	3,825	40
5	Kaku Wetland	1,191	32
6	Nakiwogo Bay	2,479	32
7	Doho Rice Scheme	583	30
8	Makanaga Bay	1,546	29
9	Lake Kikorongo	370	28
10	Shoebill Swamp	503	25
11	Airstrip Ponds	193	23
12	Lake Mburo	491	20
13	Mabamba Bay	261	20
14	Lake Bisina	135	16
15	Musambwa Islands	37,930	16
16	Lake Opeta	151	13
17	Lake Bagusa	635	9
18	Kashaka Landing Site	26	8
19	Lake Munyanyange	170	8
20	Lake Maseche	77	7
21	Lake Nshenyi	125	6
22	Kasenyei Crater Lake	11	3
23	Lake Katwe	13	2
	Grand Total	56,573	85

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

BR	Species Name	Airstrip Ponds	Doho Rice Scheme	Kaku Wetlands	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	Makanaga Wetland	Murchison Falls Nile Delta	Musambwa Islands	Nakiwogo Bay	Shoebill Swamp	Total Individuals	
4	Little Grebe	5		1			1		1			1	41			95										145
12	Pink-backed Pelican		1	20			27	8				12										32	41		141	
17	Long-tailed Cormorant		12	7		1	108	78		44							66	95	18	52		4500	1290		6271	
18	Greater Cormorant						538											4		14	24	344	66		990	
19	African Darter													2								83			85	
23	Little Bittern	1	8											5			1					1			16	
25	Grey Heron					1	16	1		1		56			1			1				13	8	25	5	128
26	Goliath Heron						2					1							1			8		4	16	
27	Black-headed Heron	4	36	13			2	112		1		7						1	1		1		3	9	190	
28	Purple Heron	2	5					12									46	3	3	4	14		3		92	
30	Common Squacco Heron		9	2			30	17		1				3			10	35	27	17	2		1	3	157	
31	Rufous-bellied Heron	3																							3	
32	Cattle Egret	7	24	10			10	374		3		6		1	1			13	11	35	20	4	3	7	529	
33	Green-backed Heron	10					30			14				53			1	1			6		1		116	
34	Great Egret		1	6			35	1				10					10	4			20		22	3	112	
36	Little Egret		103	1		1	25	173	18			6	6					78	8	4	3	636	179	3	1244	
38	Yellow-billed Egret		1					731											1		8				741	
39	White-backed Night Heron													2												2
40	Night Heron							13													1					14

42	Hamerkop		1		1	165	4					36				11	2		1		4		225	
43	African Open-billed Stork		14 3	57		16	53			1				3	47		15	3	5	12		355		
45	White Stork									1												1		
46	Woolly-necked Stork	1					1			1												3		
48	Saddle-billed Stork			1			1								4				1			7		
49	Marabou Stork			1	5	11	15			1		16							3			52		
50	Yellow-billed Stork		7	1		1	25	34			22								11		1	102		
51	Hadada Ibis	8	2	23			73	68	1			8				1		11	66		6	2	269	
53	Glossy Ibis							104 6							63		5	8			12		1134	
54	Sacred Ibis	16	1	1			29	23			3		76	2				2	1	337	18	1	510	
55	African Spoonbill		10	1			3	58			19		2									5	98	
57	Lesser Flamingo				4				97			1											102	
59	Fulvous Whistling Duck			27			88									3							118	
60	White-faced Whistling Duck	3	16	375			3		28									21	8			14 6	600	
61	Egyptian Goose			7			108	1	5		10 5	6			1		2			60	10	6	18 5	496
67	Hottentot Teal			16																			16	
72	Yellow-billed Duck	16		50												119	16	108		27	8		344	
79	Spur-winged Goose			94												6		13	10				123	
80	Knob-billed Duck			10			5	34		1						3		5	9			5	72	
82	White-backed Duck	9																7					16	
95	African Marsh Harrier						1						3				3		1				8	
137	African Fish Eagle			2			46				1		86			8	2	11	32		9	1	198	
144	Osprey									1													1	
194	Grey Crowned Crane	3		265				11												4		2	285	
197	African Crake		2																				2	
198	Lesser Moorhen											3				1			2			1	7	
199	Common Moorhen	14						33									5			8			60	
201	Black Crake	22	35	6			67	12		10			17			1	2	3	4	49	8	2	2	240

308	Slender-billed Gull																		152		16					168
318	White-winged Tern		1				1	38		10									164	1	870		124	336		1545
320	Gull-billed Tern						9	23							63											95
331	African skimmer						236												10		7					253
464	Giant Kingfisher																							4		4
465	Pied Kingfisher	19	4	1			122 5	12	4	7		3		18 0			1	42	24	7	506		60			2095
466	Malachite Kingfisher	9	10				41	2		3				73			2	27	21	9	37		2			236
473	Grey-headed Kingfisher						1																8			9
221a	White-crowned Lapwing																						1			1
	Individuals	193	583	1191	11	26	3261	3825	635	135	13	370	77	491	170	125	151	1471	261	1546	1126	37930	2479	503	56573	
	Species	23	30	32	3	8	41	40	9	16	2	28	7	20	8	6	13	41	20	29	43	16	32	25	85	