



# THE BABBLER

Newsletter of BirdLife Zimbabwe

*Dec 2017 - Jan 2018*  
*No. 139*

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## Hi everyone,

Not much news from the Branches but there is a full report on the 2017 wetland counts. The official dates for the January count is on the weekend of the 13<sup>th</sup> so I hope you will all be able to participate. See also the flyer on page 6 - wetlands are Harare's water source and wetland preservation is very important!

There was a Bulawayo report on a Museum visit in the last issue. But how many of us bother to fill in and post a nest record card? I don't. Go to the post office to get stamps..!?. There is now a pdf form, based on the card, that you can email instead, perhaps an easier option in this day and age for most people. See *Tail Feathers*.

The stunning 2018 calendar is on sale now - get a copy for yourself and friends and relatives!

Happy Birding,

Ian Riddell [gemsaf@mango.zw](mailto:gemsaf@mango.zw)

## In this issue...

### Branch News

Mashonaland 3

Mashonaland West 3

Office reports 4

Save Harare's Wetlands 6

IWC wetland counts 7

### Tail Feathers

Nest Record Cards 17

Journals for sale 18

Contacts, BLZ Membership 19

Branch Activities 20

BLZ 2018 Calendar 22

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# Branch News

## Mashonaland

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### **MARLBOROUGH VLEI WALK, SATURDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2017**

7 members led by Ronnie, our Vlei Scout, met at the vlei for the regular Saturday walk. It was blustery and overcast but the birds were not discouraged. Small flocks of Thick-billed Weaver flew over us as we chatted; how common they are in Harare these days. Also above were Grey-rumped Swallows and an early Barn Swallow among the African Palm-swifts. Later we were to see 2 Red-breasted Swallows and European Bee-eater were heard but not seen.

From the reeds along the Gwebi River we could hear African Reed-warbler, Little Rush-warbler and Lesser Swamp-warbler and Red-faced Cisticola. Levaillant's Cisticolas were there in numbers.

Every now and then raptors appeared; Black-shouldered Kite, Gabar Goshawk, the resident Black-chested Snake-eagle and a putative Lanner Falcon. The Gabar was mixing it with

an African Wattled Lapwing but whether it was targeting the bird or its nest we could not ascertain.

Large flocks of widows and bishops erupted from the ground and grass, some gradually adopting summer plumage. We could identify the Yellow-mantled Widowbird and White-winged Widowbird from flashes of colour but most remained anonymous. Flocks of Common and Orange-breasted Waxbill dived for the reeds as raptors approached and African Stonechat were common. Black Crake, Common Moorhen and Swainson's Spurrow also called.

Our count was 34 species which we were not able to augment at the sewage works as it is out of bounds for rehabilitation at present. Thanks to all who attended.

**Ken Dixon**

## Mashonaland West

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### **Kadoma News**

I have been looking out for migrant birds here and found three Willow Warblers flitting through the woodlands at the base of the Charama kopjes on the 1<sup>st</sup> October. Went for a lovely long walk (very hot) to photograph the trees in flower; was especially looking for the wild wisteria and the rain trees. Also hoped to find the violet tree which normally flowers in September.

The five Yellow-billed Storks were back at Charama Dam on 29<sup>th</sup> September, along with two or three African Spoonbills which appear to hang out with them!! Saw over 50 Comb Ducks at the dam as well on 1 October. I am very reluctant to walk there because of all the mining activity and my very short fuse!! Heard a couple of Klaas's Cuckoos and a pair of what I am convinced were Boulder Chats. Saw them

a month ago when we visited Matopos. Also fairly near the kopjes which are rocky!!



Four Grey Crowned Cranes returned for the second year to Clavelshay farm, next door to Charama. We found them very busy feeding in one of the fallow lands on the 4<sup>th</sup> October.

They weren't perturbed by the traffic and pedestrians on the Mhondoro road close by. They appear to be used to humans and activities associated with them? I wonder where they are from? It appears there are two adults with two immature cranes? In all my years, this is the first time ever we have seen them there, apart from last year. Maggie Parrock does say that there was one which used to visit their farm south of Kadoma some 30 to 40 years ago.



On the way back from photographing the cranes we stopped off at the sewage ponds and we were fortunate to see a Greater Painted-snipe (male). I was very disappointed to see that some individual has burnt the reed bed immediately below the ponds. This is where I photographed a Little Bittern in 2015, the first one I had ever seen. Sadly, a couple of weeks ago they also burnt an extensive area of grass around the ponds. The burning is relentless! With each successive year there is an increasing number of cattle grazing in this area ... I fear for the future of these wetlands and the many creatures which rely on them. Such a tragedy, such thoughtless destruction by the people!  
**Ruth Paice**

*Left: Black-throated Wattle-eye taken in Siggys garden*

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## News from the office...

### ***Mainstreaming Biodiversity Training Workshop in Nairobi***

The word mainstreaming has certainly become a topical word/term in the last few years. It is used in different scenarios, for instance it is not uncommon to hear gender activists referring to mainstreaming gender and the same applies to conservation organisations. Biodiversity Mainstreaming has become quite the catch phrase. But what does it really mean? In simple terms mainstreaming is the process of getting other stakeholders to take up your plan and implement it.



**Role play: Interacting with a politician**

Fadzai Matsvimbo attended a Training workshop on Biodiversity Mainstreaming in Nairobi, Kenya from the 6<sup>th</sup> to the 10<sup>th</sup> of November 2017, where 13 BirdLife International partners in Africa were represented. The purpose of the training workshop was to equip partners with skills in dealing with policy and advocacy. It was indeed an intensive week, full of learning and exchanging ideas. One of the messages that came through from all participants is that biodiversity in Africa is under threat. These threats include mining in key biodiversity areas, infrastructure development, agriculture expansion and several others. All the partners in attendance agreed that their respective organisations (and in a personal capacity) are not against development. The key issue is sustainability and safeguarding biodiversity for future generations! In the course of the week participants learnt different skills including working with politicians, producing press releases and policy and advocacy strategies.



One of the themes that will stick with many participants is **Nemawashi**. This a Japanese word that means an informal process of quietly laying the foundation for some proposed change or project by talking to the people concerned, gathering support and feedback,

and so forth. Certainly the lessons learnt from the one week will be useful in our own Zimbabwean scenario.

**Fadzai Matsvimbo**

## The 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Diamond Route Conference



Fadzai Matsvimbo attended the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Diamond Route Research Conference which was held on 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> October 2017 at the De Beers Corporate Headquarters, Johannesburg.

The objectives of this annual conference are to provide a platform for researchers to:

- Share the outcomes of a range of research projects supported by E. Oppenheimer & Son and the De Beers Group of Companies.
- Provide an opportunity for students and researchers to present their findings to a diverse audience of academics, students and environmental managers as well as members of the media, guiding future research and post-graduate opportunities with the Oppenheimer family and the De Beers Group.

This was my first time attending this conference and I was quite blown away by the research that going on at Debshan Ranch. Debshan is one of Zimbabwe's Important Bird Areas, mainly because of the Cape Vultures

that used to roost at Wabai Hill. The research on Debshan presented covered a wide range including spiders, fish, vultures and even leopards. Our own presentation was on the White-backed Vultures nesting at Debshan Ranch. During a survey we conducted in collaboration with the National University of Science Technology June 2017, we counted 22 active nests. This is interesting because until a few years ago White-backed Vultures were not known to nest at Debshan. Certainly Debshan is now a 'New nesting haven' for these critically endangered species.

The two days of the conference just flew past because of the interesting presentations and meeting new people. Important Bird Areas are in the process of evolving to become Key Biodiversity Areas. Certainly the research going on at Debshan will be invaluable to this process.

**Fadzai Matsvimbo**



# Do you know of a wetland under threat in your area?

The wetlands of Harare, the city's main water source, other than rainfall runoff, are under threat from cultivation, loss of wetland biodiversity, borehole drilling for water extraction, pollution, top soil extraction and construction of buildings.

If allowed to continue, these threats will affect water provisioning for Harare's residents.

*Protection of the environment in Zimbabwe is primarily provided for in the Environmental Management Act (EM Act)(Chapter 20:27). The Act specifically stipulates that it is to prevail over any other law in conflict or inconsistent with its provisions.*

## SPECIAL PROVISIONS TO PROTECT WETLANDS

In terms of Section 113 of the EM Act it is an offence to reclaim or drain any wetland; adversely affect any animal or plant life on a wetland; introduce any exotic animal or plant species into the wetland or disturb any wetland by drilling or tunnelling in a manner that has or is likely to have an adverse impact. This would obviously include the drilling of boreholes to extract water from the wetland and construction on wetlands.



WETLAND IN THE WET SEASON



WETLAND IN THE DRY SEASON

For further information email: [hararewetlandstrust@gmail.com](mailto:hararewetlandstrust@gmail.com)

No Wetlands.  
No Water



**NB:** Under Section 97(5) of the EM Act an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) must be obtained by the developer from the Environmental Management Agency (EMA) first before applying for a building permit from the City of Harare. (NB herein lies the anomaly within the EM Act).

## CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS

Section 77 (a) of the Constitution provides that "every person has a right to safe, clean and potable water".

No Wetlands.  
No Water



Join us on

Facebook: [Harare Wetlands](https://www.facebook.com/HarareWetlands) For further information email: [hararewetlandstrust@gmail.com](mailto:hararewetlandstrust@gmail.com)

## IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Call the responsible authorities if you see development on any wetland:

**CITY OF HARARE:** Tel: 775082

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ALSO CONTACT YOUR LOCAL COUNCILLOR

# International Waterbird Census, Zimbabwe 2017

Ian Riddell

64 sites were counted in 2017, 47 in summer and 42 in winter. Of these, 24 were counted in both seasons, with 23 only counted in summer and 18 in the winter season (Table 1). The International Waterbird Census preferred count days were in the middle of January and July but our counts ranged a month either side of these dates, though Hippo Pools was the only site covered in December 2016 and 3 sites were counted in February. Most of the dry season sites (37) were covered in July, with 4 in August. Kazungula was counted in July but no date and other necessary information was supplied and these data are not reported on here and could not be uploaded to Wetlands International. Lasting Impressions data was uploaded as a sub-site of Claw Dam.

The heavy rains of the 2016-2017 season had a negative impact on the surveys and species diversity and numbers were low. Heavy rains and flooding prevented access to four Hwange sites but perversely Nswatugi dam in Matopos was dry.

Our Ramsar sites (Table 1) were poorly covered though Chivero Bird Sanctuary (as part of Lake Chivero) was covered in both seasons and Lake Manyame in July. Aberdeen is on the shoreline of Manyame. Widgeon Pan is part of the Driefontein Grasslands and was counted in January, though the grasslands as a whole are not fully surveyed via these counts.

Participants are encouraged to count any sudden and significant influx that occurs at any time of the year.

Coverage of our wetland sites relies on the voluntary services of our members and their often limited resources so grateful thanks are due to those 64 who participated, 42 in the wet and 43 in the dry season, plus those simply listed as BLZ.

11 484 birds of 132 species were recorded; this total includes estimates and recounted sites though the latter are not included in Table 2. A summary of most species is given below though single site records (1 record for the year) are only listed in Table 2.

## Anseriformes (Anatidae): ducks and geese

### White-faced Duck *Dendrocygna viduata*

The highest numbers were in winter with 562 at Mazvikadei Dam, followed by 340 at Muchaniwa Pan, 177 at Claw Dam and 114 at Biri Dam. In summer Mazvikadei Dam had the highest count with 107 and was the only site with over 100 birds; there were many more sites (15) with single figure counts in summer.

### White-backed Duck *Thalassornis leuconotus*

Apart from Clifton farm dam, only recorded in small numbers of 1-6. Clifton had 37 in winter and 2 in summer and was the only site with birds in both seasons. Mandavu, with 6 in January, was the next highest count, the remaining having 2 birds except for Manzimbomvo Pan with a single in July.

### Egyptian Goose *Alopochen aegyptiaca*

In summer the majority of sites had small numbers, the average for 23 sites with fewer than 10 was 4.5 birds. 7 sites had 12 or more but the only site with over 100 was Ngamo Pans with 206 birds. The winter distribution was similar with 17 sites averaging 2.6 birds. The highest counts were 80 at Muchaniwa Pan, 50 at Lake Manyame and 37 at Mandavu Dam.

### Spur-winged Goose *Plectropterus gambensis*

The summer counts involved ones and twos at 8 sites. In winter 60 were at Muchaniwa Pan and 40 at Lake Manyame.

### African Comb Duck *Sarkidiornis melanotos*

In summer numbers were small (1-7) except for 21 at Lower Ncema Dam. In winter 17 were at Muchaniwa Pan, with 3 other sites having 1-3 birds.

### African Pygmy-goose *Nettapus auritus*

Only recorded in winter. Clifton farm dam had the highest count on 71 birds, which is a nice number these days. 17 were at Claw Dam, 4 at Mazvikadei Dam and 1 at Gletwyn Dam.



### **Southern Pochard *Netta erythrophthalma***

In summer only counted at 3 sites in Hwange with 1-2 birds. Clifton farm dam was the only winter site, with 17 birds.

### **Hottentot Teal *Anas hottentota***

Only counted in Hwange in summer with 26 at Ngamo Pans and 2 at Salt Pans Dam. Winter numbers were low with 1-3 birds at 4 sites.

### **Red-billed Teal *Anas erythrorhyncha***

Summer numbers were low with 1-10 birds at 18 sites, the highest being 37 at Crowborough Farm. Slightly larger numbers were found in winter with 1-7 at 12 sites and 42 at Clifton farm dam, 26 at Kadoma Textiles Dye Ponds and 18 at Eiffel Flats Sewage Ponds.

## **Podicipediformes (Podicipedidae): grebes**

### **Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis***

In summer very low numbers were involved, all 1-3 birds except for 8 at Ngamo Pans. Winter numbers were slightly better, though still low, with 1-9 birds (average 4) at 17 sites and 15 at Mpopoma Dam. The count of 5 at Lake Manyame was extremely low for this site where numbers can reach into the hundreds.

## **Cuculiformes (Cuculidae): coucals**

### **Senegal Coucal *Centropus senegalensis***

Only recorded in July at 4 sites though it can be overlooked if not calling.

## **Gruiformes: finfoots, flufftails, rails, crakes, cranes**

### **African Finfoot *Podica senegalensis***

Two were found at Hippo Pools in summer, with 3 there in winter. The only other record was a single at Mazvikadei Dam in August.

### **Red-chested Flufftail *Sarothrura rufa***

Certainly an under-recorded bird that is seldom seen. A bird each at Greengrove Nature Reserve and Lake Chivero Bird Sanctuary in January no doubt involved more birds than indicated.

### **African Rail *Rallus caerulescens***

As above. 1 at Mazvikadei Dam in January and 1 each at Greengrove Nature Reserve and Aberdeen Farm (Hideaway) in July.

### **Black Crake *Zapornia flavirostra***

In summer small numbers of 1-7 at 7 sites with 12 at Lanark Farm (Irvines) North dams and 36 at Mazvikadei Dam. The winter counts were higher with 1-10 at 13 sites and 15 at Claw Dam and 60 at Mazvikadei Dam.

### **African Purple Swamphen *Porphyrio madagascariensis***

The highest count in summer was of 7 birds at Lake Chivero Bird Sanctuary; in winter 4 at Aberdeen Farm (Hideaway).

### **Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus***

In summer from 1-9 at 9 sites plus 26 at Mazvikadei Dam. More were counted in winter; 8 sites had numbers from 2-8 with double figure counts from the other 7 sites, the highest being 80 at Lake Manyame.

### **Lesser Moorhen *Gallinula angulata***

This is typically a wet season migrant so the July record is of interest.

### **Red-knobbed Coot *Fulica cristata***

The high count for the year was 181 at Lake Manyame in July - this site was not counted in the wet season.

### **Grey Crowned Crane *Balearica regulorum***

Only counted in summer and apart for 2 birds at Widgeon Pan, all records were from Hwange.

## **Ciconiiformes (Ciconiidae): storks**

### **Marabou Stork *Leptoptilos crumenifer***

Only counted in Hwange with a single and 13 in January and just a single in July.

### **Yellow-billed Stork *Mycteria ibis***

In summer there were 2 counts of 6 birds from Hwange and Kariba. Winter numbers were higher with the largest count of 16 birds from Mandavu Dam.

### **African Openbill *Anastomus lamelligerus***

A rather poor count in summer with 3 birds from 2 sites. The winter count was better with



5 sites covered, the highest number being 23 at Aberdeen Farm (Hideaway) in July.

#### **Black Stork *Ciconia nigra***

Only found in July with singles at Hippo Pools and Crocodile Pools, and a group of 10 at Salt Pans Dam.

#### **Abdim's Stork *Ciconia abdimii***

Groups were rather small; those over 10 birds were 21 at Country Club Golf Course, 44 at Hippo Pools and 80 at Ngamo Pans.

#### **African Woollyneck *Ciconia microscelis***

Only recorded in Hwange in January with groups of 7, 15 and 74.

#### **White Stork *Ciconia ciconia***

Only recorded at 2 Hwange sites with 9 and 39 birds.

#### **Saddle-billed Stork *Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis***

Low counts: in January, 1 at Lanark Farm (Irvines) North dams and 2 at Pans 2-3 km NE of Makalolo Pan, in July, 1 at Lake Chivero Bird Sanctuary.

### **Pelecaniformes: ibises, spoonbills, herons, Hamerkop, pelicans**

#### **African Spoonbill *Platalea alba***

In January only counted in Hwange where the biggest group was 46 at Ngamo Pans. In winter there was a single at Salt Pans Dam, 2 at Muchaniwa Pan, 6 at David Whitehead Ponds and 7 at Mandavu Dam.

#### **African Sacred Ibis *Threskiornis aethiopicus***

In summer groups were relatively small, the largest being 29 at Ngamo Pans. Overall numbers were higher in winter with more sites covered and the largest group was 30 at Lake Manyame.

#### **Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus***

Low numbers in summer, all being singles apart from 11 at Mazvikadei Dam. Numbers and group sizes were improved in winter, ranging from 2-9, plus 22 at Lake Manyame and 24 at Aberdeen Farm (Hideaway). The Manyame sites were counted a week apart so recounting is a possibility but both figures are given here.

#### **Little Bittern *Ixobrychus minutus***

Only recorded in summer, ranging from 1-3 birds.

#### **White-backed Night-heron *Calherodius leuconotus***

These were only found at Hippo Pools with singles in both seasons.

#### **Green-backed Heron *Butorides striata***

Quite a widely distributed species. Summer numbers were lower with 1-4 birds recorded but the range increased to 1-8 birds in winter, Muchaniwa Pan having the highest number.

#### **Squacco Heron *Ardeola ralloides***

In January the highest concentrations were 14 at Mazvikadei Dam and 18 at Lake Chivero Bird Sanctuary. In winter these were 13 at Mazvikadei Dam, 15 at Lake Chivero Bird Sanctuary and 26 at Muchaniwa Pan, though the latter was an estimate and numbers were higher.

#### **Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis***

The largest flock in summer was 149 on Nyanyana Shoreline, and in winter 75 at Crowborough Farm.

#### **Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea***

In summer these ranged from 1-4 birds apart from 28 and 29 at Mandavu Dam and Nyanyana Shoreline. The winter range was 1-7 birds, with 13 at Mandavu Dam, 14 at Kadoma Textiles Dye Ponds and 18 at Muchaniwa Pan.

#### **Black-headed Heron *Ardea melanocephala***

In summer these ranged from 1-3 birds, with concentrations of 9 and 12 at Mazvikadei Dam and Mazvikadei Ponds. The winter counts had 1-4 birds with 13 at Muchaniwa Pan, and 19 each at David Whitehead Ponds and Mazvikadei Ponds.

#### **Goliath Heron *Ardea goliath***

A range of 1-3 birds was recorded, the highest being 3 at Lake Manyame in July.

#### **Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea***

9 at Mazvikadei Dam and 20 at Lake Chivero Bird Sanctuary accounted for the summer counts, the latter a nice number for this site, though this species is invariably undercounted as it is easily overlooked in

reedbeds. Mazvikadei Dam had 10 birds in August.

#### Great Egret *Ardea alba*

Mandavu Dam had 11 in January, and in July the high counts were 12 at Lake Manyame and 16 at Claw Dam.

#### Yellow-billed Egret *Ardea brachyrhyncha*

Singles at Mazvikadei Dam and Salt Pans Dam, but 10 at Lanark Farm (Irvines) North dams in January. Winter numbers ranged from 1-5.

#### Black Heron *Egretta ardesiaca*

In January there were 1-4 at 3 sites, but 41 at Mazvikadei Dam, which was the only site to record 8 birds in August.

#### Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

In January there were 1-2 at 4 sites with 10 at Mandavu Dam, 13 at Lake Chivero Bird Sanctuary and 19 at Mazvikadei Dam. The winter counts had numbers ranging from 1-4.

#### Hamerkop *Scopus umbretta*

The highest summer count involved 4 at Hippo Pools, which rose to 6 in winter. Biri Dam Fishing Site had 7 in July.

### Suliformes: cormorants and darters

#### Reed Cormorant *Microcarbo africanus*

A fairly well distributed species, the highest summer and winter counts were 124 and 99 at Mazvikadei Dam.

#### White-breasted Cormorant *Phalacrocorax lucidus*

In summer, apart from the high count of 284 at Lake Chivero Bird Sanctuary, all other sites had 1-7 birds. This high count dropped to 50 in winter; 55 were recorded on Lake Manyame with between 1-9 birds at the other 4 sites.

#### African Darter *Anhinga rufa*

Only counted at 4 sites in summer, the highest number being 5 on Nyanyana Shoreline. In winter it was counted at 3 sites with 8 at Muchaniwa Pan the highest number. It remains locally extinct around Harare where uncontrolled gill netting continues.

### Charadriiformes: thick-knees, avocets & stilts, plovers, jacanas, sandpipers & snipes, coursers, pratincoles, gulls, terns & skimmers

#### Water Thick-knee *Burhinus vermiculatus*

The highest summer count was 10 on Nyanyana Shoreline. In winter Hippo Pools and Mandavu Dam both had counts of 10.

#### Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*

Most summer counts were from Hwange where 15 at Salt Pans Dam was the highest. Coverage was more extensive in winter and higher counts were 17 at both Mazvikadei Ponds and David Whitehead Ponds and 35 at Kadoma Textiles Dye Ponds.

#### Kittlitz's Plover *Charadrius pecuarius*

Of the 6 summer sites, 5 were in Hwange where numbers ranged from 1-7; the 6<sup>th</sup> site was Lake Chivero Bird Sanctuary where 15 were counted. Only 3 sites recorded this species in winter, 1 Hwange site (2 birds) and David Whitehead Ponds (2) and Kadoma Textiles Dye Ponds (4).

#### Three-banded Plover *Charadrius tricollaris*

In summer these were seen in ones and twos apart from 12 at Salt Pans Dam. The winter numbers ranged from 1-7.

#### Blacksmith Lapwing *Vanellus armatus*

A widely distributed lapwing. The average group size was 11 in summer with 60 on Nyanyana Shoreline the highest count. The winter average was lower at 5.4 birds and 25 at Mandavu Dam was the highest.

#### White-crowned Lapwing *Vanellus albiceps*

The only summer site reporting this bird was the Nyanyana Shoreline, where expected. More interesting were the 4 at Claw Dam in July. This represents a range increase on the highveld and is the 2<sup>nd</sup> such record; more on the subject can be read in Riddell, I.C. 2013. An overlooked highveld record of the White-crowned Lapwing. *Honeyguide* 59(1): 40. The Claw Dam birds must have made their incursion up the Sanyati River and are perhaps more established on this system than realised.

### **Crowned Lapwing *Vanellus coronatus***

The only highveld record was 1 at Lanark Farm (Irvines) North dams, the other 3 records coming from Hwange. More highveld winter records might have been expected but 2 birds at David Whitehead Ponds was the only one; 2 birds were also at Muchaniwa Pan in August.

### **African Wattled Lapwing *Vanellus senegallus***

Summer numbers ranged from 1-10, Mazvikadei Dam recording the highest number. Winter numbers ranged from 1-6.

### **African Jacana *Actophilornis africanus***

Fairly well distributed across sites a high count of 206 came from Mazvikadei Dam in January and 327 in August. The next highest winter count was c.120 at Muchaniwa Pan.

### **Ruff *Philomachus pugnax***

In January between 1-8 were recorded at 5 sites, topped by 39 at Salt Pans Dam.

### **Little Stint *Calidris minuta***

In January Lake Chivero Bird Sanctuary had 10 birds and Salt Pans Dam had 30.

### **Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos***

The 7 sites in January recorded a range of 1-5 birds.

### **Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia***

Numbers ranged from 1-3 at 7 sites, with 6 at Ngamo Pans; there were no winter birds.

### **Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola***

The most extensively recorded summer migrant with typical numbers from 1-7, plus 10 at Lake Chivero Bird Sanctuary and 17 at Mazvikadei Dam.

### **Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis***

Only 1 & 2 birds were recorded in Hwange, with 4 from Mazvikadei Dam.

### **Collared Pratincole *Glareola pratincola***

The summer counts were 16 at Salt Pans Dam and 87 at Salt Pans Dam, Hwange. The winter counts were from Mashonaland with 4 each at Mazvikadei Ponds, Lake Manyame and David Whitehead Ponds, and 7 at Aberdeen Farm (Hideaway).

### **African Skimmer *Rynchops flavirostris***

Mandavu Dam was the only site having this bird; 3 in January and 2 in August.

### **Grey-headed Gull *Larus cirrocephalus***

Low numbers in January with singles at 3 sites and 5 on the Nyanyana Shoreline. Higher numbers in July with 3 at Lake Manyame, 11 at Aberdeen Farm (Hideaway) a week later and 15 at Lake Chivero Bird Sanctuary.

### **Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybrida***

All were from Hwange where the highest January count was 10 at Dwarf Goose Pan and the sole July record was 3 birds at Salt Pans Dam.

### **White-winged Tern *Chlidonias leucopterus***

In January 3 & 6 birds were seen at Masuma Pan/Dam and Salt Pans Dam, and the only winter record was a single at Lake Chivero Bird Sanctuary.

## **Accipitriformes: Osprey, hawks and eagles**

### **Osprey *Pandion haliaetus***

In January there was a single at Mandavu Dam and 3 at Mazvikadei Dam. The latter site produced a single on 4 August.

### **Black-shouldered Kite *Elanus caeruleus***

Singles were recorded in all counts from sites on the highveld.

### **African Fish-eagle *Haliaeetus vocifer***

In January the highest count of 10 came from Lake Chivero Bird Sanctuary; Mazvikadei Dam and Nyanyana Shoreline each had 8 birds. In winter between 1-9 were recorded at all sites apart from 31 at Lake Manyame.

### **Yellow-billed Kite *Milvus aegyptius***

Apart from a single at SAST (Khami sewage works), all others were recorded in Hwange with Ngamo Pans having 8 birds.

## **Coraciiformes: bee-eaters, kingfishers**

### **White-fronted Bee-eater *Merops bullockoides***

7 at Mbonisa Weir was the only summer record. 3 were at this site in July, with another 7 from Claw Dam.



Southern Carmine Bee-eater *Merops nubicoides*

Only recorded in January and all from Hwange sites.

Little Bee-eater *Merops pusillus*

In ones and twos in January but higher number in July with a range of 1-5 plus 10 at Claw Dam and 15 at Lake Chivero Bird Sanctuary.

Malachite Kingfisher *Corythornis cristatus*

In January Mazvikadei Dam and Mazvikadei Ponds had 5 and 4 respectively, but the former had a high of 33 in August.

Giant Kingfisher *Megaceryle maxima*

Mazvikadei Dam had 9 in January. The winter sites had a range of 1-4 birds.

Pied Kingfisher *Ceryle rudis*

Mazvikadei Dam again produced the best count with 35 in January and 44 in August. Other sites ranged from 1-9 birds.

## Passeriformes

### Cisticolidae: cisticolas

Red-faced Cisticola *Cisticola erythrops*

6 in July at Lake Chivero Bird Sanctuary was the highest count.

Levaillant's Cisticola *Cisticola tinniens*

Only recorded at Lake Chivero Bird Sanctuary with 2 birds in January and July.

### Acrocephalidae & Locustellidae: reed-warblers, grasshopper-warblers

African Reed-warbler *Acrocephalus baeticatus*

SAST (Khami sewage works) had the highest count of 5 birds in February.

Lesser Swamp-warbler *Acrocephalus gracilirostris*

Country Club Golf Course and SAST (Khami sewage works) had 6 in summer and Lake Chivero Bird Sanctuary had 8 in July.

Great Reed-warbler *Acrocephalus arundinaceus*

Only a summer bird with 1 each at SAST (Khami sewage works) and Lake Chivero Bird Sanctuary.

Little Rush-warbler *Bradypterus baboecala*

8 at SAST (Khami sewage works) in summer and 6 at Lake Chivero Bird Sanctuary in winter were the highest counts.

## Hirundinidae: swallows & martins

Grey-rumped Swallow *Pseudhirundo griseopyga*

Only recorded in July at Crowborough Farm and Lake Chivero Bird Sanctuary.

Wire-tailed Swallow *Hirundo smithii*

Only recorded in winter at Country Club Golf Course and Muchaniwa Pan.

Banded Martin *Neophedina cincta*

In January, 1 at Crowborough Farm and 6 at Lake Chivero Bird Sanctuary.

## Ploceidae: weavers

Thick-billed Weaver *Amblyospiza albifrons*

5 at Country Club Golf Course in January, but more interesting there were 8 at Mazvikadei Dam that month, an indication of their range extension to the northwest.

Southern Red Bishop *Euplectes orix*

Females in flocks may be undercounted and liable to be overlooked and difficult to identify in winter. These problems apply to many species in this family. 12 at Lanark Farm (Irvines) North dams was the greatest summer count.

Golden Weaver *Ploceus xanthops*

The highest count was 5 at Country Club Golf Course in July.

## Estrildidae: waxbills

Common Waxbill *Estrilda astrild*

Only 2 at Country Club Golf Course in January, with July counts of 22 there and 20 at Lake Chivero Bird Sanctuary.

## Motacillidae: longclaws & wagtails

## African Pied Wagtail *Motacilla aguimp*

Yellow-throated Longclaw *Macronyx croceus*  
6 were at Lanark Farm (Irvines) North dams in January and 1-4 at the winter sites in July.

Numbers ranged from 1-4 in summer and 1-5 in winter plus a high count of 12 at Hippo Pools.

**Table 1. Sites covered in 2017. Coverage of Ramsar sites and sites within their confines are highlighted.**

Site name	District	Summer	Winter
Clifton farm dam	Chegutu	x	x
Mbonisa Weir, Falcon College	Esigodini	x	x
Country Club Golf Course	Harare	x	x
Crowborough Farm	Harare	x	x
Greengrove Nature Reserve	Harare	x	x
Big Toms	Hwange	x	x
Chingahobe Dam	Hwange	x	x
Crocodile Pools	Hwange	x	x
Deteema Dam/Pan (Detema)	Hwange	x	x
Little Toms	Hwange	x	x
Manzichisa	Hwange	x	x
Manzimbomvo Pan	Hwange	x	x
Nantwich Camp & Dam	Hwange	x	x
Salt Pans Dam	Hwange	x	x
Chitampa Dam	Matopos	x	x
Madingazulu Dam	Matopos	x	x
Mesilume Dam	Matopos	x	x
Mpopoma Dam	Matopos	x	x
Nswatugi Dam	Matopos	x	x
Whitewaters Dam	Matopos	x	x
Hippo Pools	Shamva	x	x
Lake Chivero Bird Sanctuary	Zvimba	x	x
Mazvikadei Dam	Zvimba	x	x
Mazvikadei Ponds	Zvimba	x	x
SAST (Khami sewage works)	Bulawayo	x	
Inyankuni Dam	Esigodini	x	
Lower Ncema Dam	Esigodini	x	
Upper Ncema Dam	Esigodini	x	
Widgeon Pan	Gutu	x	
Airstrip 2	Hwange	x	
Broken Rifle Pan	Hwange	x	
Camp Hwange	Hwange	x	
Dwarf Goose Pan	Hwange	x	
Little Somavundhla pans	Hwange	x	
Madison Pan	Hwange	x	
Mandavu Dam	Hwange	x	
Mandundumela Pan	Hwange	x	
Masuma Pan/Dam	Hwange	x	
Mbisa Pans/Plain	Hwange	x	
Ngamo Pans	Hwange	x	
Ngweshla Pans	Hwange	x	
Pans 2-3 km NE of Makalolo Pan, (Back Pan)	Hwange	x	
Scotts Pan	Hwange	x	

Site name	District	Summer	Winter
Shumba pumped pan	Hwange	x	
Somavundhla Pan	Hwange	x	
Nyanyana Shoreline	Kariba	x	
Lanark Farm (Irvines) North dams	Seke	x	
David Whitehead Ponds	Chegutu		x
Muchaniwa Pan	Gonarezhou		x
Cleveland Dam & vleis	Harare		x
Gletwyn Dam	Harare		x
Dolilo Pan	Hwange		x
Mandavu Dam	Hwange		x
Matetsi River Bridge	Hwange		x
Charama Dam, Muraga Wilderness	Kadoma		x
Claw Dam	Kadoma		x
Eiffel Flats Sewage Ponds	Kadoma		x
Kadoma Textiles Dye Ponds	Kadoma		x
Lasting Impressions Dam	Kadoma		x
Shozoloza Lodge, Muraga Wilderness	Kadoma		x
Suri Suri Dam, Chakari	Kadoma		x
Biri Dam	Makonde		x
Biri Dam Fishing Site	Makonde		x
Aberdeen Farm (Hideaway)	Zvimba		x
Lake Manyame	Zvimba		x
Monavale Vlei	Harare	-	-
Mana Pools	Hurungwe	-	-
Victoria Falls	Hwange	-	-

**Table 2. Species totals, excluding recounts, by season in 2017. The number of sites (including sub-sites) in brackets. Single site records, not mentioned above, are given here.**

Species	Summer	Winter	Total	Single site
Fulvous Duck	12 (1)		12 (1)	Ngamo Pans
White-faced Duck	320 (22)	1482 (13)	1802 (30)	
White-backed Duck	14 (5)	40 (3)	54 (8)	
Maccoa Duck	2 (1)		2 (1)	Ngamo Pans
Egyptian Goose	555 (29)	212 (20)	767 (42)	
Spur-winged Goose	13 (8)	100 (2)	113 (10)	
African Comb Duck	45 (11)	23 (4)	68 (15)	
African Pygmy-goose		93 (4)	93 (4)	
Southern Pochard	4 (3)	17 (1)	21 (4)	
Hottentot Teal	28 (2)	9 (4)	37 (6)	
African Black Duck	1 (1)		1 (1)	Mbonisa Weir
Cape Teal		10 (1)	10 (1)	David Whitehead Ponds
Red-billed Teal	131 (21)	133 (15)	264 (34)	
Little Grebe	27 (12)	83 (18)	110 (25)	
Senegal Coucal		5 (4)	5 (4)	
White-browed Coucal	2 (1)		2 (1)	Mazvikadei Ponds
African Finfoot	2 (1)	4 (2)	6 (2)	
Red-chested Flufftail	2 (2)		2 (2)	
African Rail	1 (1)	2 (2)	3 (3)	



Species	Summer	Winter	Total	Single site
Black Crake	78 (9)	137 (15)	215 (20)	
African Purple Swamphen	10 (3)	6 (3)	16 (5)	
Allen's Gallinule	1 (1)		1 (1)	Lake Chivero Bird Sanctuary
Common Moorhen	64 (10)	280 (14)	344 (20)	
Lesser Moorhen		2 (1)	2 (1)	Biri Dam Fishing Site
Red-knobbed Coot	10 (3)	197 (3)	207 (5)	
Grey Crowned Crane	21 (10)		21 (10)	
Marabou Stork	14 (2)	1 (1)	15 (3)	
Yellow-billed Stork	14 (3)	26 (4)	40 (7)	
African Openbill	3 (2)	42 (5)	45 (6)	
Black Stork		12 (3)	12 (3)	
Abdim's Stork	161 (6)		161 (6)	
African Woollyneck	96 (3)		96 (3)	
White Stork	48 (2)		48 (2)	
Saddle-billed Stork	3 (2)	1 (1)	4 (3)	
African Spoonbill	51 (3)	16 (4)	67 (7)	
African Sacred Ibis	65 (7)	136 (13)	201 (17)	
Hadedda Ibis		6 (1)	6 (1)	Muchaniwa Pan
Glossy Ibis	16 (6)	68 (6)	84 (11)	
Little Bittern	9 (5)		9 (5)	
White-backed Night-heron	1 (1)	1 (1)	2 (1)	
Green-backed Heron	14 (8)	40 (17)	54 (20)	
Squacco Heron	50 (7)	68 (8)	118 (13)	
Cattle Egret	487 (11)	356 (15)	843 (21)	
Grey Heron	73 (10)	79 (16)	152 (25)	
Black-headed Heron	33 (9)	71 (13)	104 (18)	
Goliath Heron	4 (3)	7 (3)	11 (6)	
Purple Heron	29 (2)	19 (5)	48 (6)	
Great Egret	32 (9)	54 (11)	86 (18)	
Yellow-billed Egret	12 (3)	11 (5)	23 (7)	
Black Heron	50 (4)	8 (1)	58 (4)	
Little Egret	47 (7)	11 (6)	58 (10)	
Hamerkop	13 (7)	38 (15)	51 (19)	
Great White Pelican	1 (1)		1 (1)	Somavundhla Pan
Reed Cormorant	242 (11)	198 (14)	440 (20)	
White-breasted Cormorant	303 (8)	121 (6)	424 (13)	
African Darter	11 (4)	12 (3)	23 (7)	
Water Thick-knee	35 (8)	37 (7)	72 (12)	
Spotted Thick-knee	2 (1)		2 (1)	Lake Chivero Bird Sanctuary
Black-winged Stilt	42 (7)	125 (12)	167 (15)	
Common Ringed Plover	1 (1)		1 (1)	Pans 2-3 km NE of Makalolo Pan
Kittlitz's Plover	33 (6)	8 (3)	41 (8)	
Three-banded Plover	22 (9)	28 (10)	50 (19)	
Blacksmith Lapwing	325 (29)	138 (25)	463 (47)	
White-crowned Lapwing	8 (1)	4 (1)	12 (2)	
Senegal Lapwing		2 (1)	2 (1)	Muchaniwa Pan
Crowned Lapwing	21 (4)	4 (2)	25 (6)	
African Wattled Lapwing	39 (9)	31 (11)	70 (19)	
Greater Painted-snipe		4 (1)	4 (1)	Muchaniwa Pan
African Jacana	374 (21)	781 (19)	1155 (33)	

Species	Summer	Winter	Total	Single site
Ruff	56 (6)		56 (6)	
Little Stint	45 (4)		45 (4)	
Common Sandpiper	15 (7)		15 (7)	
Common Greenshank	18 (8)		18 (8)	
Wood Sandpiper	72 (18)		72 (18)	
Marsh Sandpiper	7 (3)		7 (3)	
Three-banded Courser		4 (1)	4 (1)	Muchaniwa Pan
Collared Pratincole	103 (2)	19 (4)	122 (6)	
Black-winged Pratincole	14 (1)		14 (1)	Salt Pans Dam
African Skimmer	3 (1)	2 (1)	5 (1)	
Grey-headed Gull	8 (4)	29 (3)	37 (6)	
Whiskered Tern	29 (7)	3 (1)	32 (8)	
White-winged Tern	9 (2)	1 (1)	10 (3)	
Marsh Owl		1 (1)	1 (1)	Greengrove Nature Reserve
Osprey	4 (2)	1 (1)	5 (2)	
Black-shouldered Kite	2 (2)	5 (5)	7 (6)	
Black-chested Snake-eagle		1 (1)	1 (1)	Aberdeen Farm (Hideaway)
African Marsh-harrier	2 (1)		2 (1)	Lake Chivero Bird Sanctuary
African Fish-eagle	44 (14)	87 (22)	131 (30)	
Yellow-billed Kite	14 (6)		14 (6)	
White-fronted Bee-eater	7 (1)	10 (2)	17 (2)	
Southern Carmine Bee-eater	43 (9)		43 (9)	
Little Bee-eater	6 (5)	38 (7)	44 (10)	
Malachite Kingfisher	10 (3)	42 (6)	52 (8)	
Half-collared Kingfisher	1 (1)		1 (1)	Hippo Pools
Giant Kingfisher	13 (5)	18 (7)	31 (9)	
Pied Kingfisher	59 (8)	94 (19)	153 (23)	
Red-faced Cisticola	3 (1)	14 (5)	17 (6)	
Levaillant's Cisticola	2 (1)	2 (1)	4 (1)	
Zitting Cisticola		2 (1)	2 (1)	Lake Chivero Bird Sanctuary
Sedge Warbler	8 (1)		8 (1)	Lake Chivero Bird Sanctuary
African Reed-warbler	9 (4)	3 (2)	12 (6)	
Lesser Swamp-warbler	21 (6)	20 (8)	41 (12)	
Great Reed-warbler	2 (2)		2 (2)	
Little Rush-warbler	15 (4)	14 (5)	29 (8)	
Grey-rumped Swallow		9 (2)	9 (2)	
Wire-tailed Swallow		5 (2)	5 (2)	
Barn Swallow	300 (1)		300 (1)	Lake Chivero Bird Sanctuary
Banded Martin	7 (2)		7 (2)	
Brown-throated Martin		1 (1)	1 (1)	Greengrove Nature Reserve
Sand Martin	200 (1)		200 (1)	Lake Chivero Bird Sanctuary
Garden Warbler	1 (1)		1 (1)	Country Club Golf Course
Thick-billed Weaver	13 (2)		13 (2)	
Southern Red Bishop	27 (5)		27 (5)	
Yellow Bishop	1 (1)		1 (1)	Country Club Golf Course
Yellow-mantled Widowbird	2 (1)		2 (1)	Lanark Farm (Irvines) North dams
White-winged Widowbird	1 (1)		1 (1)	Mbonisa Weir
Golden Weaver	4 (2)	6 (2)	10 (3)	
Common Waxbill	2 (1)	42 (2)	44 (2)	
Orange-breasted Waxbill	100 (1)		100 (1)	Lake Chivero Bird Sanctuary

Species	Summer	Winter	Total	Single site
African Quailfinch	20 (1)		20 (1)	Widgeon Pan
Yellow-throated Longclaw	12 (3)	13 (5)	25 (8)	
Rosy-throated Longclaw	1 (1)		1 (1)	Crowborough Farm
Cape Wagtail	1 (1)		1 (1)	Crowborough Farm
Yellow Wagtail	1 (1)		1 (1)	Crowborough Farm
African Pied Wagtail	10 (4)	30 (6)	40 (8)	

## Participants

J Ball, G Blair, M Blair, John Brebner, Jenny Brebner, A Chanyandura, W Chigumbura, R Chirimuta, B Collett, D Dalziel, R Dennison, A Edwards, D Hartung, D Hasluck, Celia Hubbard, M Jackson, D Kok, H Lewis, G Lightfoot, E Lightfoot, Stephen Long, Sue Long, I Louw, I Mabika, H Macdonald, G Macdonald, H Matthews, G Matthews, J Matthews, C McAdam, B Morgan, T Ndadziira, C Ndlovu, Skye Oelofse, Shaun Oelofse, A Oelofse, W Oelofse, T Olivier, R Paice, C Payne, S Payne, C Pierini, I Riddell, D Rockingham-Gill, P Rockingham-Gill, B Rushworth, D Rushworth, C Sellick, H Sellick, C Shadwell, P Shadwell, L Shadwell, S Stone, G Tarakini, T Tarakini, A Tshipa, D Wiggins, P Wiggins, J Wood, T Wood, S Zienda, Rudo and Mammombe.



## Nest Record Card Scheme

*You may have read the reports on the scheme that come out in Honeyguide, or the appeal in the last Babbler...*

Make no mistake, nest record cards are important but fewer and fewer people bother to fill them in anymore.

For instance, I notice the odd photograph on social media, particularly Facebook, where they are basically wasted – a passing mention of passing interest, soon to be lost altogether!

Maybe, in this 'instant and click and forget world' we need another alternative to the Post Office? With this in mind I have created a pdf form of the old card that you can fill in on your computer and email to the museum Director at [natmuse@netonnect.co.zw](mailto:natmuse@netonnect.co.zw)

Come on birders, make an effort! Visit the BirdLife website [http://www.birdlifezimbabwe.org/b\\_conservation\\_11\\_sur.html](http://www.birdlifezimbabwe.org/b_conservation_11_sur.html) and click on 'this card' link to download it and use it as often as you can. With not having to go to the Post Office I was able to email 4 cards straight away, with pics attached for good measure!

Editor

**The National Museums and Monuments**  
P.O. Box 240, Bulawayo, Zimbabwe

Incorporating the system of the Ornithological Association of Zimbabwe

OBSERVER: I.C. Riddell      SPECIES: Red-billed Firefinch  
Latin: *Lagonosticta senegala*

One line for each visit		Localities	N.M. No.
Date	Time		Roberts No.
19 Sep 2017	10h35	Newlands, Harare	
		Co-ordinates -17.81164, 31.080963	Altitude 1505m
		Habitat (specify)	Garden
		Nest Site	On horizontal, curled leaf of <i>Strelitzia reginae</i> . Outside edge of clump
		Description of Nest	Elongated ball of grass with entrance at front facing outwards. Lined with feathers, mainly dove. L 16, w 9, h 8 cm.
		Description of Egg or Chicks	3 Chicks typical, grey above, lighter below, red upper tail coverts. Bill & eye black. White tubercles on each side of gape
		Egg Measurements	

Height above ground: 95cm





Lilian's Lovebirds were seen by Innes Louw on one of his July wetland count visits to David Whitehead ponds in Chegutu. Some interesting birds have been appeared in that area but I queried Chris Payne in the possibility (more likelihood) of these being escapees. There have been escaped cage birds in the Kadoma area so it appears likely that these are too. You never know what you might find out there these days.

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## For Sale

Mark Shaw is selling *Honeyguide*, *Ostrich* and *Bokmakierie* sets

*"It's preferable to sell them as sets but I may consider selling odd volumes if necessary"*

Contact Mark on [sas4security@live.com](mailto:sas4security@live.com)  
SAS Security P/L  
Cell: 0772-343485

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## Useful Contacts:

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BirdLife Zimbabwe's membership year is from April to March, but you can join any time.

**Even if you don't attend meetings and outings**, your membership is really important and supports our goal to protect biodiversity and conserve birds and their habitats through education, lobbying decision-makers and interaction with international organisations.

In addition, your involvement with data collection through atlassing and submission of records is invaluable. As a member you get the newsletter, *The Babblers*, every two months and two issues of *Honeyguide*, our internationally acclaimed journal, every membership year. All for a very reasonable annual fee.

Especially in these difficult economic times, donations towards any of our projects are always much appreciated and you may consider mentioning BLZ in your will!

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It is **ESSENTIAL** please that you include YOUR name on the deposit slip so it appears on the statements **AND** advise Sylvia Muzavazi by e-mail or phone of your transaction, or your payment may not be recorded.

Please contact Sylvia on 04-481496 or e-mail [sylvia@blz.co.zw](mailto:sylvia@blz.co.zw) for all membership-related issues – new, renewals, payments, change of details, queries.

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## Branch Activities

**Friends of the Vumba** is a community initiative that employs 3 trained scouts to protect the wildlife – tracking for snares and arresting poachers of game, birds and wood. We also support an education outreach into the schools in the area, mostly focussed on birding but more recently extending into wider environmental issues such as WESSA's Water program, rubbish health awareness, alien tree harvesting and indigenous tree planting.

### Directions to regular venues (Google Earth co-ordinates):

**CABS Northridge Park** -17.777494, 31.090782. From town drive along Borrowdale Road, turn right into Whitwell, next right into Ridgeway North, next right into Northend Road and first right into Northridge Close. Drive to the end of the road and go through a security boom into Northridge Park.

**Marlborough Vlei** -17.742715, 30.990416. Meet at the bottom of Princess Margaret Road, off Harare Drive and follow the road round to the left. Park on the short road midway along the bottom of Princess Margaret.

**Mukuvisi Woodlands** -17.851935, 31.092010. Turn off the Chiremba Road into Ford Road (opposite Queensdale shops) cross over Longford Avenue and bear left down to the T-junction on Blatherwick Road. Turn right and the gate is about 150 metres on the left. Bring a reasonable tip for the guard, taking into account the value of your vehicle! Don't forget refreshments for after the walk when we record the number of species. The **public car park** is off Hillside Road, -17.835393, 31.089111.

**Prince Edward School car park** -17.818721, 31.036462. Josiah Tongogara Ave.

**Monavale Vlei** -17.806770, 31.010579. From Quendon Road turn into Lyndhurst Road, at bottom follow right hand bend, take first left and second right to BS Leon roundabout. Second exit is Fenella Drive. Meet on Fenella Drive.

**Haka Park** -17.843391, 31.143369. From the traffic circle at the Mutare Road/Harare Drive intersection continue 500m and turn left, follow the road (770m) to the Haka sign and boom on the left. If entering through the boom on Harare Drive (-17.828473, 31.140253; 1.9 km north of the circle) make your way to the meeting point. \$3 entrance fee for BLZ members, \$5 others.

**Avondale Sports Club** -17.785100, 31.041972. Brighton Road, Harare between Sam Nujoma Street Extension and Upper East Road. There is a cash bar and a security guard. A minimum donation of \$1 per person at the door please.

### Mashonaland Branch

#### *BirdLife Zimbabwe Mashonaland Calendar of Events: DECEMBER 2017*

<b>Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>Marlborough Vlei walk</b>	Meet at 07.00 a.m.
<b>Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>Mukuvisi Woodlands walk</b>	Meet at 06.30 a.m.
<b>Saturday 9<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Harare Botanic Gardens</b>	Meet at 07.00 a.m.
<b>Sunday 10<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>no outing</b>	
<b>Thursday 14<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Quiz – Social and fun evening</b>	Meet at 5.30 for 6.00 p.m.
	Run by Tony Alegria, Avondale Sports Club. Bring snacks to share.	
	Donations for a Raffle are required, please bring what you can.	
<b>Sunday 17<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Monavale Vlei walk</b>	Meet at 06.30 a.m.

*BirdLife Zimbabwe Mashonaland Calendar of Events: JANUARY 2018*

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<b>Saturday 6<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Marlborough Vlei walk</b>	Meet at 07.00 a.m.
<b>Sunday 7<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Mukuvisi Woodlands walk</b>	Meet at 06.30 a.m.
<b>Saturday 13<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Greystone Park Nature Preserve</b> Meet at the Preserve -17.746190, 31.127282	Meet at 07.00 a.m.
From Rolf Avenue/Harare Drive intersection, turn east onto Gaydon Road. After 2 km turn right into Halford Road and preserve is 200 m on left.		
<b>Sunday 14<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Lake Chivero (Waterfowl Count)</b> Meet at Prince Edward School	Meet at 06.30 a.m.
<b>Thursday 18<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Mashonaland Branch AGM</b> Followed by slide presentation by James Ball, Avondale Sports Club	Meet 5.30 for 6.00 p.m.
<b>Sunday 21<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>Monavale Vlei walk</b>	Meet at 06.30 a.m.
<b>Sunday 28<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Hideaway (Waterfowl Count)</b> Meet at CABS Northridge Park to share transport. Bring folding chair, drinks and snacks	Meet at 06.30 a.m.

For further information please contact Tony Alegria, [tonyalegria47@gmail.com](mailto:tonyalegria47@gmail.com) 0772-438697 or 490375 (h)

### **Other Areas**

**Mashonaland West** – Margaret Parrock 068-22005 or 0773-263673

**Eastern Districts** – Second Saturday of every month **The Vumba Walk**. These vary from the Upper to Lower Vumba areas and occasionally may extend into Penhalonga, Burma Valley, and even Chimanimani. Many birding enthusiasts join us although it is not officially a birding walk. They are usually hosted by either a Vumba resident or a commercial venue such as Tony's Coffee Shop, Forest Hills Lodge, White Horse Inn or the Botanical Gardens and the walks will often traverse private properties not always accessible by the public. Contact Sue Fenwick 0779-408557 [ingram.sue@gmail.com](mailto:ingram.sue@gmail.com) for more details.

**Lowveld** – contact Clive Stockil 0772-219204 or [clive@chilogorge.com](mailto:clive@chilogorge.com)

*Wishing you all the best festive season*



*Please send contributions for  
The Babbler 140 Feb-Mar 2018  
any time before the 15<sup>th</sup> Jan.*



# The 2018 BirdLife Zimbabwe Calendar is hot off the press!

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BirdLife Zimbabwe NMB Bank, Borrowdale Branch, Harare Acc. no. 260092014

BirdLife Zimbabwe Mashonaland Branch, CABS, Chisipite, Harare, Acc. no. 1002399955

Other outlets:

## **In Harare:**

Titles Bookshop (Newlands Shopping Centre)

Folio Bookshop (Sam Levy Village)

Coconut Joe (Sam Levy Village)

QV Pharmacy (Sam Levy Village)

Village Pharmacy (Sam Levy Village)

Medix Pharmacy (Pomona)

Mukuvisi Woodlands (Hillside Road)

Billy's Meats (Mount Pleasant shopping Centre)

Kamfinsa Vet

Chisi Vet

Ballantyne Pharmacy

Medicine Chest (Chisipite)

Inside Out (opp. Arundel Village)

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LNA Stationery

