



# THE BABBLER

Newsletter of BirdLife Zimbabwe

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*December 2018 -  
January 2019  
No. 145*

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### Hi everyone,

In this issue are the results of the waterbird counts for 2018. This is a fairly long report so most of the branch outing reports will be carried over to *The Babbler* #146 in the New Year; lots of news to come! Many thanks to everyone who made the effort to cover their favourite sites.

*The official dates for the 2019 IWC will be Saturday 12th and Sunday 13th of January. We encourage counts to be held as close as possible to these dates.*

I hope you will find the report below to be of interest and are stimulated to get out there and have fun in the sun (... and rain!). Hopefully you won't be washed out!

Summer rains are here and we wait to see what sort of season it is going to be so make the most of it and head out to your favourite birding spots, and any reports or interesting observations are most welcome can be sent to me at the email below.

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

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# Branch News

## Mashonaland

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### BirdLife Zimbabwe Youth Club outing to Lake Chivero, 8<sup>th</sup> September 2018

On a hot and very sunny Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2018, some members of the BLZ Youth Club visited the game park on the south bank of Lake Chivero. Ronnie Chirimuta, Benhilda Antonio, Bright Chando, Beauulla and Abigail Karimanzira and Sylvia Chigonera attended the trip. Vengai Dengu, from the BLZ office, and John Vekris, a good friend of the Club, complemented the team on the day. The BLZ Youth Club has a membership of over 100 and is committed to conserving Zimbabwe's birdlife and nature in general.

Lake Chivero is located to the southwest of Harare, where a 400-metre long dam was built across the Manyame River, near the Harare-Bulawayo road, in 1952. The Lake covers 2630 hectares and holds 250 000 million litres of water. It is a source of water with economic, environmental and social benefits for the people in the capital and beyond. It was designated a Ramsar Site in January 2013.

Together with the recreational park that surrounds it, Lake Chivero is managed by the Zimbabwe Parks & Wildlife Management Authority. The game park is dominated by *Brachystegia* woodland, with associated trees such as Msasa and Munondo, creating enough food for browsers and habitat for birds. In fact, the lake with its woodland harbours a great variety of birdlife and so has become a paradise for birdwatchers.

Only about five kilometres from the gate to the park, we stopped at Preparation Creek to look for some waterbirds, and found a surprising amount of rubbish littering the shoreline. It seems irresponsible fishermen continue to abandon their nets after fishing, as well as plastic bottles, cans, other metal & glass objects, baby diapers, all of which can affect birdlife and other natural resources like fish and animals, and even water quality.

As we had come prepared, we soon filled up bag after bag with rubbish. While we were cleaning up, we had a very good view of two African Fish-eagles perched on top of a tree. There were Squacco Herons flying into the

reeds, African Jacanas and Cattle Egrets. A Little Rush-warbler was also heard calling from the reeds. In the woodland next door, we spotted a Purple-banded Sunbird and a party of Green Wood-hoopoes. We also saw plenty of Common Ostriches, all of which have been introduced into the park... and we enjoyed watching baboons and Vervet monkeys.

After cleaning the area, John and Abigail went to offload the six big bags of garbage at the Warden's Office, during which time the rest of the team turned their attention to birds in the woodland, and drinking maheu, since it was a very hot day. In the midst of the miombo woodland, Sylvia had a good view of a Lizard Buzzard perched on top of a very tall and thin Munondo tree (*Julbernardia globiflora*).

At that time, Benhilda was busy listening to her bird, the Black-backed Puffback. We tried our best to see the bird but failed. We proceeded with our bird walk and identified a magnificent Red-headed Weaver. Everyone was very excited because that was our first close up view. So many other birds were seen flying around, including starlings, cisticolas, sunbirds, and Streaky-headed Seedeaters.

When John and Abigail returned, everyone boarded the Landcruiser and we followed the gravel road to Bushman's Point. Along the way we had a very good view of an Emerald-spotted Wood-dove that flew and then perched in a tree, while many others were heard calling in various parts of the woodland. We also saw a good number of Helmeted Guineafowls. Everyone was on the lookout for game, especially a White Rhinoceros. Luckily, Vengai suddenly spotted a rhino that was resting under a tree, in the distance. We all jumped out of the car to have a good view, while always keeping a safe distance. During that time, African Grey Hornbills were heard singing in the trees and later seen flying around, and then a Senegal Coucal flew out of a depression close by.

Next to the White Rhino were foraging Cattle Egrets. Impalas, warthogs, zebras and waterbucks were also found in that area.

Benhilda was surely the happiest because, of all the Big Five, she had never seen a rhinoceros before and this rhino was extremely large! After that, we continued on our way, birding with both eyes and ears, game-viewing and admiring the woodland all around us.

Our enthusiastic team reached Bushman's Point with its close up view the lake, but first we had our lunch and refreshments at the picnic site. While we were at it we were entertained by the melodious songs from the Black-collared Barbets, Arrow-marked Babblers, a Yellow-throated Petronia and more Helmeted Guineafowls and Emerald-spotted Wood-doves. Afterwards, we climbed up the rocks to see the ancient San rock paintings. These are impressive paintings with images of wildlife and tree species that are found in the area.

From there we reached the jetty. Sadly, we couldn't fail noticing the high levels of pollution; the water is very turbid and green. This tells us that we have a lot to do as far as conservation is concerned.

Plenty of waterbird species were recorded including White-breasted Cormorants and Reed Cormorants, a Yellow-billed Egret, White-faced Ducks, Egyptian Goose and Grey-headed Gulls, as well as the ever-present African Fish-eagles. A male and female Mocking Cliff-chat was also seen playing on the boulders at the banks of the lake.

Ronnie and Abigail then decided to climb a neighbouring hill and before reaching the top they flushed a Freckled Nightjar as well as finding two more lying on the rocks further up.

From Bushman's Point, we took a different route out of the game park, seeing more flocks of Helmeted Guineafowls, White-faced Ducks, Egyptian Goose, Glossy Ibises, African Wattled Lapwings and Three-banded Plovers. We also came across a number of mammals such as warthogs, tsessebe, waterbucks, wildebeest, zebras and three giraffes, and they indeed spiced up the trip.

We then drove to Kuimba Shiri Bird Park, on the north bank, a very nice bird sanctuary owned by Gary Stafford, who also works hard to protect the Lake and its environment. Here we found Gary and his assistant, Jean, tracking a Peregrine Falcon electronically. The falcon had been rehabilitated after suffering from avian TB and was again healthy. It eventually appeared out of the surrounding woodland, landed and

settled on Gary's covered arm, to enjoy its supper of raw chicken. It was impressive to see such a beautiful bird up close and also to see how it relates to a handler. While the Peregrine Falcon was enjoying its supper, an African Fish-eagle flew towards us and the falcon started calling. Gary then explained that his falcon was probably raising the alarm, so we need to pay more attention when birds are calling, because every time they call they are communicating something.

By the time we left Kuimba Shiri around 17h30 and headed back to Harare we had recorded 77 different bird species, excluding the Common Ostrich. This was a respectable count for us, since we arrived at the lake rather late and spent the first couple of hours cleaning up. Abigail was disappointed to see only a few raptors, (viz. Gabar Goshawk, Black-shouldered Kite, Lizard Buzzard and Black-chested Snake-eagle) but relished seeing so many fish-eagles, all in one day!

The group is planning to visit the park again and stay at the lodges so that we cover much ground and start early as well.

We had a wonderful time at Lake Chivero, but at the same time we were reminded that there is a serious need for a comprehensive clean up all around the lake, in order to save the natural ecosystem there. We only just scratched the surface with the six big bags we filled with garbage! There is also need for continuous and intensive environmental education, to increase awareness and appreciation of the importance of natural resources. It would also help if everyone who visits the lake is actively urged to keep the environment clean and, if necessary, supplied with a bin bag at the entrance and advised to return it full of their discarded rubbish upon departure.

We are grateful to the BirdLife Zimbabwe CEO, Julia Pierini, for supporting and sponsoring so many of our outings, and John Vekris, for encouraging us and promoting us. Special thanks to our BLZ Youth Club Chairperson, Ronnie Chirimuta, for his tireless efforts in planning and organising our many activities and helping us to identify so many different birds. Finally, thanks also to fellow BLZ youths who make the effort to attend our various activities.

**Sylvia Chigonera & Abigail Karimanzira**

# Matabeleland

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## Longueville Ranch, Gwanda

The 10<sup>th</sup> August saw several birders brave the journey towards Gwanda. Traffic was hectic but road and weather clear. Although Longueville is close to the main road, the thick scrub bush gave the impression one was deep in Matabele country. Over a grid and through a locked gate took us on to Longueville and then “Nicholls Knuckles”, being the first set of kopjies seen, and a little further, a group of zebra grazing on cabbage stalks right next to the road – they were totally unconcerned! A bit further and a field of sable and warthog and a lovely dam with part of the “Knuckles” at its base – all this before we came to the lapa and the area we were to set up camp.

Setting up camp was a hilarious affair as there was a stiff breeze off the dam and our flysheets were trying to act like flies – one particular member was seen to be chasing after an itinerate sheet and a towel! Later in the evening, a sighting of three otters kept us entertained for about an hour.

Saturday morning saw several folks wander off with Nolan for a 5km walk around the base of the Knuckles, seeing an old quarry, old fields and carcass of a dead zebra (left out for the vultures and any other carrion harvesters). It was a great walk with much of interest and much learnt, as Nolan is family and has a deep love of all things bush. But, by gum, we were a hungry bunch when we returned to camp!

Brunch was fulsome, and so were all the meals – I haven’t eaten so much in years and the best thing was not having to cook or wash-up! The cooking was organised by Tony Wharam and Elton Lightfoot and the staff did the washing (thank you to you all – for me it was a welcome break). After lunch, we had a trip around the farm followed by a wonderful dinner and much laughter as everyone started to wind down and relax.

Sunday saw us up early and off to Insindi Ranch to see their dam and checkout waterfowl – oh yeah, I forgot this was a birding weekend, not that I have mentioned them (a list was compiled). Back to camp for lunch. Tea at the dam was an amassing of folks from various parts of Gwanda and again much laughter and reminiscences. On Monday, various folks went in search of Verreaux’s Eagle nests and found a Lanner Falcon on its nest, and also saw on several occasions a juvenile Martial Eagle. The morning was spent at the main house adding the garden birds to the overall list.

Sadly, Tuesday saw everyone packing up to return home, with most wishing they had another day or two to absorb the quietude and peace. Our thanks to the Nicholl family for their hospitality and for the memories we carry home with us.

**Judy Ross**

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## National

### International Waterbird Census, Zimbabwe 2018

Ian Riddell

99 sites were counted in 2018, 70 in summer and 59 in winter. Of these, 31 were counted in both seasons, with 39 only counted in summer and 29 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. Four Hwange sites were counted in December 2017, one of which, Mandavu Dam,

was also counted in January as well as in May and June. Clifton farm dam, Chegutu, was also counted in October. These data include recounts of Country Club Golf course in January, David Whitehead Ponds in January and February and Mandavu Dam in six months.

In January, Dwarf Goose Pan and Reedbuck vlei were dry. In July, Nswatugi Dam, Ngwenya Pans, Kaoshe Pan system and

Tshebetshebe Pan were also dry; all these sites were in Hwange apart from Nswatugi in Matopos.

There is concern about the rampant gillnetting on highveld dams. This has been a problem on the Manyame dams for some time and is now occurring in the Kadoma area. The African Darter *Anhinga rufa* is locally extinct around Harare and mortalities of waterfowl have been recorded on Manyame.

Our Ramsar sites coverage is shown in Table 1. Chivero Bird Sanctuary (as part of Lake Chivero) was covered in summer and Aberdeen, as a part of Lake Manyame, in both seasons.

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 who participated, 72 in the wet and 35 in the dry season, plus those simply listed as BLZ. A big thankyou to those individuals who did extensive counts in Hwange and other sites.

25 606 birds of 150 species were recorded; this total includes estimates and recounted sites (Table 2).

*The official dates for the 2019 IWC will be Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> of January 2019*

*A summary of most species is given below though single site records (1 record for the year) are only listed in Table 2.*



*Discarded gill nets at Suri Suri Dam, Chakari. Not only birds are affected. Photo: Ruth Baldwin-Paice; Sigrid Stone*

### **Anseriformes (Anatidae): ducks and geese**

#### **White-faced Duck *Dendrocygna viduata***

Summer: the highest count of 739 was at Aberdeen Farm (Hideaway). A range of 1-100 was counted at 36 other sites and 153-275 at 6 sites.

Winter: the high count was 632 at Mazvikadei Dam. Other sites ranged from 4-250. Mandavu had 4 birds in May, rising to 100 in June.

### White-backed Duck *Thalassornis leuconotus*

Summer: counts ranged from 1-18 (Av. 11.4) at 7 sites, plus a high 90 at Clifton farm dam. An October count at the latter site had 125 birds.

Winter: 2-6 birds at 5 sites, plus 27, 30 and 33 at the remainder. Clifton had 30 and the high count was from Mandalay Dam.



15 at Pasi Dam, 19 at Mpopoma Dam, 44 at Clifton farm dam in January and 24 at this site in October.

Winter: all in July with 5 at Mesilume Dam, 6 at Mandalay Dam, and 75 at Clifton farm dam.



### Egyptian Goose *Alopochen aegyptiaca*

Summer: 31 sites ranged from 1-16 birds (Av. 4.6), and then numbers rose with 10 sites with a range of 27-166. Mandavu was counted in December and January with 115 and 119 respectively. Ngamo Pans had the high count of 166.

Winter: 27 sites ranged from 1-7 birds (Av. 4.7), followed by higher counts from 21-115. These higher numbers came from Mandavu with 32, 46 and 115 in July, May and June.

### Spur-winged Goose *Plectropterus gambensis*

Summer: 1-12 birds at 11 sites and higher counts of 22 (Runde River crossing), 31 (Chinga Pan) and 80 (Muchaniwa Pan) at the remainder, all these in the Save-Runde region.

Winter: all were from Hwange with 1, 5 and 21 (Reedbuck Vlei) birds.

### African Comb Duck *Sarkidiornis melanotos*

Summer: 1-29 at 17 sites, then 40-146 at 5 sites, Kriedermann's Dam with the high count.

Winter: low numbers of 1-7 at 6 sites and a high repeat count of 57 at Mandavu in June. The Mandavu repeat counts were 7 (1 May), 1 (25 May) and 57 (22 June).

### African Pygmy-goose *Nettapus auritus*

Summer: low numbers of 1 at Highacres Dam, 2 at Aberdeen Farm and Mandalay Dam, only 3 on the Lake Manyame count in February,

*Cape Shoveler at Ngamo Pans in February. An interesting duck that unfortunately was not part of the counts. Photo: © Roger MacDonald*

### Southern Pochard *Netta erythrophthalma*

Summer: 15 at Aberdeen Farm and 76 at Kriedermann's Dam, with 10 at Clifton farm dam in October.

Winter: only a single record with 1 at Mandalay Dam.

### Hottentot Teal *Spatula hottentota*

Summer: ranged from 1-9 (Av. 4.2), Mandavu counted in December (9) and January (8), plus higher counts of 25 at Highacres Dam and 44 at Aberdeen Farm.

Winter: 1 (Eiffel Flats Sewage Ponds), 2 (Greengrove Nature Reserve) and 8 (Mandavu Dam).

### Cape Teal *Anas capensis*

Recorded only at David Whitehead Ponds with 2 & 1 in February and July, respectively.

### Red-billed Teal *Anas erythrorhyncha*

Summer: 1-40 birds (Av. 10.7) at 31 sites increased to 47-170 (Aberdeen) at the remainder.

Winter: more even numbers were counted with 1-25 (Av. 6.5) plus 63 at Crowborough Farm.

## Podicipediformes (Podicipedidae) grebes

### Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

Summer: numbers were low for this species with a range of 1-32 (Av. 7.2).

Winter: as in summer, counts were poor with 1-11 (Av. 3.7) and a higher 148 at Nantwich Camp & Dam. Is this grebe being affected by the excessive gillnetting on highveld dams?

## Phoenicopteriformes (Phoenicopteridae) flamingos



### Greater Flamingo *Phoenicopus roseus*

Summer: in January, 14 (David Whitehead Ponds), 5 (Lake Chivero Bird Sanctuary) and 1 (Kadoma Textiles Dye Ponds) were recorded.

*Greater Flamingos at Lake Chivero. Photo © Jean-Michel Blake*

## Cuculiformes (Cuculidae) coucals

### Senegal Coucal *Centropus senegalensis*

Summer: 1-4, the high count from Mukuvisi Woodland.

### White-browed Coucal *Centropus superciliosus*

Summer: only from Mazvikadei with 1 from the dam and 2 from the Ponds; the latter

appeared to have hybridised with Senegal Coucal.

### Black Coucal *Centropus grillii*

Summer: 1-6 with 5 at Monavale Vlei and 6 at Mazvikadei Dam.

## Gruiformes (Heliornithidae-Gruidae) finfoots, flufftails, rails, crakes, cranes

### African Finfoot *Podica senegalensis*

Summer: in January, 1 was at Mazvikadei Dam and 4 at Hippo Pools camp.

Winter: 3 at Hippo Pools camp in July.

### African Rail *Rallus caerulescens*

Summer: under-recorded due to its secretive behaviour but singles from Aberdeen Farm and Eiffel Flats Sewage Ponds.

Winter: 2 each at Greengrove Nature Reserve and Aberdeen Farm.

### African Crake *Crecopsis egregia*

Summer: 2 at Monavale Vlei and 1 at Eiffel Flats Sewage Ponds.



### Black Crake *Zapornia flavirostris*

Summer: ranged from 1-17 (Av. 5.8), plus 22 at Aberdeen Farm and 41 at Mazvikadei Dam.

Winter: ranged from 1-10 (Av. 4.2), plus a high of 95 at Mazvikadei Dam.

### African Purple Swamphen *Porphyrio madagascariensis*

Summer: from 1-7, plus 22 at Aberdeen Farm.

Winter: only at Aberdeen Farm where 6 were counted in July.

### Allen's Gallinule *Porphyrio alleni*

Summer: singles at Tambahata Pan and Greengrove Nature Reserve, plus 3 at Muchaniwa Pan.

### Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*

Summer: ranged from 1-30 (Av. 9.4) with higher counts of 80 (Aberdeen Farm) and 131 (Mazvikadei Dam).

Winter: from 1-30 (Av. 8.8) and a high 173 from Mazvikadei Dam.

### Lesser Moorhen *Gallinula angulata*

Summer: a single at Biri Dam Fishing Site with 2 others on Biri Dam; twos at Clifton farm dam and Greengrove Nature Reserve.

Winter: claimed from the Biri sites but it is likely that these are misidentifications.

### Red-knobbed Coot *Fulica cristata*

Summer: 1-95 (Av. 20) at 7 sites, with higher counts of 109 at Aberdeen Farm, 127 at Kriedermann's Dam and 356 at Lake Manyame.

Winter: 3-6 at 3 sites.

### Grey Crowned Crane *Balearica regulorum*

Summer: all recorded from Hwange, from 2-8 birds (Av. 2.8), the 8 from Camp Hwange.

Winter: 2 each at Livingi Pan and Mandavu Dam.



## Ciconiiformes (Ciconiidae) storks

### Marabou Stork *Leptoptilos crumenifer*

Summer: only small numbers of 1-3 recorded from Hwange (5), Chinga Pan (3) and Aisleby (1).

### Yellow-billed Stork *Mycteria ibis*

Summer: ranged from 1-14 birds.

Winter: from 1-12 birds. Mandavu was counted 4 times but numbers were stable with 5-7 birds.



Yellow-billed Storks in the Kadoma area. Photo: Ruth Baldwin-Paice

### African Openbill *Anastomus lamelligerus*

Summer: recorded in low numbers of 1-9 with higher counts of 18 (Mazvikadei Dam), 25 (Chinga Pan) and 28 (Suri Suri Dam).

Winter: only 64 at Suri Suri Dam in August.

### Black Stork *Ciconia nigra*

Summer: singles at Hippo Pools camp and Little Somavundhla pans.

Winter: 1 (Charama Dam), 2 (Hippo Pools camp), 2 (Pasi Dam) and 4 (Salt Pans Dam).

### Abdim's Stork *Ciconia abdimii*

Summer: 1-33 (Av. 11). Country Club Golf course had 16 on 17 January and 3 on the 20<sup>th</sup>.

### African Woollyneck *Ciconia microscelis*

Summer: 3 in Gonarezhou and 3 at Mteri Dam.



African Openbills at Suri Suri dam. Photo: Ruth Baldwin-Paice; Sigrid Stone

### White Stork *Ciconia ciconia*

Summer: 1-3 at 5 sites plus 16 at Mteri Dam Section 4, 17 at Somavundhla Pan and 44 at Makalolo Pan.

### Saddle-billed Stork *Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis*

Summer: 1-3 birds from the lowveld and Hwange.

Winter: 1-2 from Hwange.

## Pelecaniformes (Threskiornithidae-Pelecanidae) ibises, spoonbills, herons, Hamerkop, pelicans

### African Spoonbill *Platalea alba*

Summer: 1-16 (Av. 5.3), higher numbers from Mandavu Dam (10) and Ngamo Pans (16).

Winter: only from Suri Suri Dam (3) and Mandavu Dam, the latter having 4 counts with numbers stable at 5-7 birds.

Spoonbills and ducks in the Kadoma area. Photo: Ruth Baldwin-Paice; Sigrid Stone

### African Sacred Ibis *Threskiornis aethiopicus*

Summer: numbers ranged from 1-23 (Av. 6.4) with higher counts of 73 (Aisleby) and 147 (Crowborough Farm).

Winter: a range of 1-14 (Av. 4.1) with 75 from Crowborough Farm. Mandavu, with 4 counts,



showed no appreciable change in numbers with 5-6 birds.

### Hadedda Ibis *Bostrychia hagedash*

Summer: from 2-16 birds (Av. 7), the 2 (Highacres Dam) and 4 (Kriedermann's Dam) are interesting records. The other counts were from Chiredzi District.

Winter: the single from Suri Suri Dam is an interesting record; the other count was from Chinga Pan.

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

Summer: a range of 1-19 (Av. 5.5) with 34 from Lake Manyame in February, 76 from Aberdeen Farm in January and 154 from Ngamo Pans.

Winter: ranged from 1-7 birds. Mandavu (3 counts) had singles in May and 7 in June.

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

Summer: 1-2 recorded in the Harare area.

#### **Dwarf Bittern *Ixobrychus sturmii***

Summer: singles at Biri Dam and Lanark Farm.

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

Summer: from 1-8 birds (Av. 3.1), the 8 from Mteri Dam Section 1.

Winter: from 1-6 birds (Av. 2.2), 6 each from Hippo Pools camp and Mandavu Dam.

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

Summer: 1-16 (Av. 6.2) plus 24 from Mazvikadei Dam and 28 from Aberdeen Farm.

Winter: 1-6 (Av. 2.1) with a gigh of 23 from Mazvikadei Dam.

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

Summer: numbers ranged from 1-83 (Av. 19.6) followed by 5 higher counts, the highest being 365 at Chinga Pan.

Winter: there were far few birds at few sites with a range of 1-26 (Av. 8.8) plus 100 at Crowborough Farm being the most recorded.

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

Summer: the majority of birds were of 1-9 (Av. 2.3, 27 sites) with 12-26 at 4 sites, the 26 at Lake Chivero Bird Sanctuary. Mandavu was counted in December (14) and January (9).

Winter: ranged from 1-14, or 1-4 if Mandavu is discounted. Four counts at Mandavu in May-July had 5-14 birds and accounted for all high numbers.

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

Summer: range of 1-4 birds.

Winter: range of 1-3 plus 6 at Chinga Pan and 7 each at David Whitehead Ponds and Mandalay Dam.

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

Summer: ranged from 1-5. Sections 1 & 4 of Mteri Dam had 2 & 5 birds.

Winter: 2 sites had single birds and Mandavu (4 counts, May-July) had 1-3 (T=7) so the total may include a high degree of recounting.

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

Summer: ranged from 1-3 birds plus 9 at Aberdeen Farm and 31 at Mazvikadei Dam.

Winter: only a single at Biri Dam Fishing Site and again a high count of 17 at Mazvikadei Dam.

#### **Great Egret *Ardea alba***

Summer: from 1-10 (Av. 3.9) at 16 sites plus 18 at Mteri Dam Section 1.

Winter: ranged from 1-6 birds at 6 sites plus 4-8 at Mandavu (4 counts, May-July).

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

Summer: ranged from 1-9 birds (Av. 4). David Whitehead Ponds was counted on 3<sup>rd</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> February with 1 & 5 birds respectively.

Winter: from 1-5 birds (Av. 2.8).

#### **Black Heron *Egretta ardesiaca***

Summer: most sites (8) had from 1-4 birds but Lake Chivero Bird Sanctuary had 17 and Mazvikadei Dam had 33.

Winter: only 1-2 birds.

#### **Little Egret *Egretta garzetta***

Summer: ranged from 1-8 birds (Av. 2.4) plus 14 at Mandavu Dam and 50 at Lake Chivero Bird Sanctuary.

Winter: singles at 3 sites plus 2-7 at Mandavu (3 counts, May-June).

#### **Hamerkop *Scopus umbretta***

Summer: ranged from 1-5 birds (Av. 1.6), the 5 from Ballantyne Park North (Blair).

Winter: from 1-6 (Av. 2.2), the 6 from Chinga Pan.

#### **Great White Pelican *Pelecanus onocrotalus***

Summer: a single at Somavundhla Pan.

Winter: 2 at Mandavu Dam.

### **Suliformes (Phalacrocoracidae-Anhingidae) cormorants and darters**

#### **Reed Cormorant *Microcarbo africanus***

Summer: ranged from 1-33 (Av. 6.7) plus 135 at Mazvikadei Dam.

Winter: 1-7 (Av. 4.3) plus 55 at Mazvikadei Dam.

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

Summer: from 1-12 (Av. 3.3) plus 220 at Lake Chivero Bird Sanctuary.

Winter: only counted at Mandavu where there were 1, 2 & 2 birds in May, June & July.

**African Darter *Anhinga rufa***

Summer: mostly ranged from 1-5, boosted by 14 & 20. Three sections of Mteri Dam had 3, 4 & 14 (T=21) and the 20 came from Highacres Dam.

Winter: ranged from 1-4 birds. Mandavu (4 counts, May-July) accounted for 9 birds, more than half the winter total, and had 1-4 birds and could involve recounting.

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



*A perfect medley of waterbirds on a spring count at Mandavu Dam. Photo: Steve Long*

Dam (June). The 4 Mandavu counts (May-July) had 1, 20, 75 & 16 birds.

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

Summer: most counts ranged from 1-6 birds, plus 10 & 13, and 50 at Mandavu Dam (December) and 57 at Mandavu Dam (January).

Winter: 1-15 (Av. 5.6) plus 57 at Mandavu Dam in June; the July count here had only 4 birds.

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

Summer: from 1-10 (Av. 4.4), the 10 from Hippo Pools camp. Mandavu was counted in December (1) and January (6).

Winter: from 1-12 (Av. 3.3), 10 from Hippo Pools camp and 12 from Deteema Dam/Pan (Detema). Mandavu (3 counts, May-July) had 2, 6 & 2 birds.

**Pied Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta***

Summer: most counts of 1-6 birds (Av. 3.1) with 24 from David Whitehead Ponds. This site was counted on 13 January, 3 & 10 February with 24, 6 & 1 birds.

Winter: 1 at Mandavu Dam, 3 at David Whitehead Ponds and 4 at Pasi Dam.

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

Summer: most counts ranged from 1-28 (Av. 7.3) plus 38 at Kadoma Textiles Dye Ponds, 72 at Mandavu Dam (December) and 75 at Mandavu Dam (January).

Winter: ranged from 1-20 (Av. 6.6) plus 54 at David Whitehead Ponds and 75 at Mandavu

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

Summer: the majority of sites had 1-6 birds (Av. 2.6) plus 13 at Deteema Dam/Pan (Detema) and 18 at Mandavu (January). Mandavu had 4 birds in December.

Winter: 1-10 (Av. 2.8) plus 18 at Mandavu Dam. The 4 counts here had 1 & 3 (May), 18 (June) and 1 (July).

**White-fronted Plover *Charadrius marginatus***

Summer: 1 at Lake Chivero Bird Sanctuary and 3 at Runde River crossing, Gonarezhou.

**Blacksmith Lapwing *Vanellus armatus***

Summer: the majority of sites had from 1-29 birds (Av. 8.2), followed by 54 at Kriedermann's Dam, 103 at Salt Pans Dam, 110 at Mandavu Dam (January), 114 at Deteema Dam/Pan, 150 at Mandavu Dam (December) and 250 at Ngamo Pans.

Winter: ranged from 1-30 (Av. 6.6) plus 110 at Mandavu Dam. The 4 counts here were 15 & 8 (May), 110 (June) and 30 (July).

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

Summer: only recorded in Gonarezhou.

**Crowned Lapwing *Vanellus coronatus***

Summer: 2, 5 & 25 in Hwange.

Winter: 2, 6 & 20 in Hwange and 3 at Mandalay Dam.

**African Wattled Lapwing *Vanellus senegallus***

Summer: from 1-25 (Av. 7.8), the 25 at Lanark Farm (Irvines) North dams.

Winter: most counts of 1-6 (Av. 2.3) plus 13 at Mazvikadei Dam.

**Greater Painted-snipe *Rostratula benghalensis***

Summer: 1-2, all in the Kadoma area.

Winter: 3 at Chingahobi Dam.

**African Jacana *Actophilornis africanus***

Summer: most sites (28) recorded 1-19 birds (Av. 5.2), whilst 10 others had 40-88 (Av. 57). These were eclipsed by Mazvikadei Dam with a high 431. In January and October, Clifton farm dam had 59 & 12, Mandavu Dam had 1 in December and 10 in January.

Winter: 13 sites had from 1-10 birds (Av. 4.3), another 4 had 21-30 (Av. 24), Clifton farm dam recorded 68, with Mazvikadei Dam having a high 529. Mandavu was counted in May, June & July, with 1, 10 & 6 birds.

**Ruff *Philomachus pugnax***

Summer: from 1-44 and then a high of 190 at Mandavu Dam. David Whitehead Ponds was counted on 13 January (22), 3 February (26) and 10 February (35). Mandavu Dam was counted on 4 December (44) and 21 January (190).

Winter: 190 at Mandavu Dam in June.

**Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea***

Summer: a single at Mandavu Dam.

Winter: a single at Mandavu Dam on 22 June.

**Little Stint *Calidris minuta***

Summer: a single at Deteema Dam/Pan, 4 at Mandavu Dam in December and 18 in January, 15 at David Whitehead Ponds and 18 at Lake Chivero Bird Sanctuary.

Winter: 18 at Mandavu Dam on 22 June.

**Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos***

Summer: from 1-7 (Av. 2) birds, Mandavu Dam with 2 in December and 4 in January.

Winter: singles at Hippo Pools camp and Mandalay Dam in July, and 4 at Mandavu Dam on 22 June.

**Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia***

Summer: low numbers of 1-3 with 13 at Mandavu Dam in January, the December count there being just 3.

Winter: singles at David Whitehead Ponds (July) and Suri Suri Dam (August), 13 at Mandavu Dam on 22 June.

**Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola***

Summer: from 1-40 (Av. 7.4). two counts at David Whitehead Ponds were of 2 & 3 birds, two counts at Mandavu Dam were of 5 & 15 birds.

Winter: 1 at Mandavu Dam on 1 May and 15 on 22 June, 2 at Suri Suri Dam in August and 7 at Guvulala Pan in July.

**Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis***

Summer: low counts of 1-4 with 13 at Mandavu Dam (January), the December count there being 4. David Whitehead Ponds had singles on 2 counts in February.

Winter: 1 at Mandavu Dam on 1 May and 13 on 22 June.

**Collared Pratincole *Glareola pratincola***

Summer: Lake Chivero Bird Sanctuary had just 2 birds and Tambahata Pan had 124, both in January. In December, Salt Pans Dam had 174 and Mandavu Dam had 234.

**Black-winged Pratincole *Glareola nordmanni***

Summer: 5 at Shumba pumped pan on 4 December and 9 at Aisleby on 4 February.

Winter: 14 at Mandavu Dam on 22 June.

**African Skimmer *Rynchops flavirostris***

Summer: 3 at Mandavu Dam on 4 December and 21 January.

Winter: 3 at Mandavu Dam on 22 June and 4 on 27 July.

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

Summer: a wide range of numbers from 1-120, the single at Mandavu Dam, 11 at Lake Manyame, 20 at Mazvikadei Dam, 68 at Aberdeen Farm and 120 at Lake Chivero Bird Sanctuary.

Winter: 1, 2 & 7 at Mandavu Dam, Mazvikadei Dam and Aberdeen Farm respectively.

### Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybrida*

Summer: all from Hwange. 4 & 5 at Scotts Pan and Makalolo Pan, 72 at Mandavu Dam in December and 28 there in January.

Winter: 1 at Nantwich Camp & Dam and 28 at Mandavu Dam.

### White-winged Tern *Chlidonias leucopterus*

Summer: singles at Aisleby Farm, Biri Dam Fishing Site and Tambahata Pan. 50 at Lake Chivero Bird Sanctuary and 208 at Aberdeen Farm.

Winter: 2 at Aberdeen Farm.

## Strigiformes (Strigidae) owls

### Marsh Owl *Asio capensis*

Summer: 1-2 at 3 Harare sites and David Whitehead Ponds.

## Accipitriformes (Pandionidae-Accipitridae) osprey, kites, hawks, eagles

### Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*

Summer: a single at Mandavu Dam (21 Jan), 2 plus 3 at Mteri Dam Section 4 & Section 1 and 3 at Mazvikadei Dam.

Winter: 1 at Mandavu Dam (22 June) and 1 at Biri Dam (20 July).

### Black-shouldered Kite *Elanus caeruleus*

Summer: singles at 7 sites and 2 at Monavale Vlei.

Winter: 2 at Mandalay Dam.



### Black-chested Snake-eagle *Circaetus pectoralis*

Summer: 1-2 at 4 sites.

Winter: 1 at Mandalay Dam.

### African Fish-eagle *Haliaeetus vocifer*

Summer: 19 sites had 1-5 birds and 4 had 9-12, the 11 from Lake Manyame on 17 February probably involving some of the 12 at Aberdeen Farm on 28 January.

Winter: numbers were of 1-4 at all sites except for the 10 at Mazvikadei Dam. Mandavu Dam had 2 birds in 3 counts in May and July.

### Yellow-billed Kite *Milvus aegyptius*

Summer: 1-3 at 8 sites and 6 at Crowborough Farm.

## Coraciiformes (Meropidae-Alcedinidae) bee-eaters, kingfishers

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

Summer: 2-7 birds in the Bulawayo, Esigodini and Chiredzi areas.

Winter: 1 at Suri Suri Dam and 14 at Mbonisa Weir, Falcon College.

### Southern Carmine Bee-eater *Merops nubicoides*

Summer: 1-3 at Esigodini, Gonarezhou and Hwange, with 7 at Pans 2-3 km NE of Makalolo Pan the highest count.

### European Bee-eater *Merops apiaster*

Summer: only 6 at Mbonisa Weir and 15 at Charama Dam.

### Little Bee-eater *Merops pusillus*

Summer: 1-4 plus 10 at Hippo Pools camp and 12 at Mukuvisi Woodland.

Winter: 2-4 plus 11 at Hippo Pools camp.

### Malachite Kingfisher *Corythornis cristatus*

Summer: 1-4 (Av. 1.7) at 6 sites with a high 29 at Mazvikadei Dam.

Winter: 1-2 (Av. 1.2) at 6 sites and a high again at Mazvikadei Dam of 23.

### Giant Kingfisher *Megaceryle maxima*

Summer: 1-4 (Av. 1.75) at 12 sites.

Winter: 1-3 (Av. 1.8) at 5 sites.

### Pied Kingfisher *Ceryle rudis*

Summer: 1-8 birds (Av. 3.3) plus 40 at Mazvikadei Dam.

Winter: 1-8 birds (Av. 3.8) plus 39 at Mazvikadei Dam. Mandavu Dam (4 counts) had 3 & 8 (May), 2 (June) and 6 (July).

### Cisticolas and allies (Cisticolidae)

#### Red-faced Cisticola *Cisticola erythrops*

Summer: 2-8 at 5 sites plus 16 at Mukuvisi Woodland.

Winter: 3 at Mazvikadei Dam.

#### Levaillant's Cisticola *Cisticola tinniens*

Summer: 2-4 (Av. 2.5) at 4 sites.

#### Croaking Cisticola *Cisticola natalensis*

Summer: 1-4 plus 10 at Monavale Vlei.

#### Zitting Cisticola *Cisticola juncidis*

Summer: 1-4 plus 16 at David Whitehead Ponds. An earlier count at this site had only 3 birds which is probably more a reflection on counting methods and attention to this small bird than changes in numbers.

#### Tawny-flanked Prinia *Prinia subflava*

Summer: possibly undercounted, singles at 3 sites.

### Reed-warblers (Acrocephalidae)

#### Dark-capped Yellow Warbler *Iduna natalensis*

Summer: probably undercounted, 1-2 at 3 sites.

Winter: 3 at Mazvikadei Dam.

#### African Reed-warbler *Acrocephalus baeticatus*

Summer: 1-4 at 3 sites, probably undercounted.

Winter: 2 at Hippo Pools camp.

#### Lesser Swamp-warbler *Acrocephalus gracilirostris*

Summer: 1-10 (Av. 4.2), with 8 at Lake Chivero Bird Sanctuary and 10 at Mazvikadei Ponds.

Winter: 1-2 (Av. 1.8) at 5 sites.

#### Great Reed-warbler *Acrocephalus arundinaceus*

Summer: recorded in 1-2 at 6 sites.

### Grasshopper-warblers and Grassbirds (Locustellidae)

#### Little Rush-warbler *Bradypterus baboecala*

Summer: 2-6 (Av. 3.3) and 19 at Mukuvisi Woodland.

Winter: only 2 each at Greengrove Nature Reserve and Mazvikadei Ponds.

### Swallows and Martins (Hirundinidae)

#### Grey-rumped Swallow *Pseudhirundo griseopyga*

Summer: 8 at Monavale Vlei, probably under recorded.

Winter: 2 at Aberdeen Farm and 16 at David Whitehead Ponds.

#### Lesser Striped Swallow *Cecropis abyssinica*

Summer: 2 at Monavale Vlei.

Winter: 7 at Crowborough Farm.

#### Wire-tailed Swallow *Hirundo smithii*

Summer: twos at Mazvikadei Ponds, Mukuvisi Woodland and Ngezi Dam.

### Old World Flycatchers and Chats (Muscicapidae)

#### Capped Wheatear *Oenanthe pileata*

Winter: 1 at David Whitehead Ponds and 40 at Crowborough Farm.

### Weavers (Ploceidae)

#### Thick-billed Weaver *Amblyospiza albifrons*

Summer: 4 sites had 2-7 birds, Mazvikadei Ponds had 24 and Mukuvisi Woodland had 30.

Winter: 7 at Greengrove Nature Reserve and 10 at Charama Dam.

### Red-billed Quelea *Quelea quelea*

Summer: numbers of 4-80 and 100 at Mandalay Dam.

Winter: 100 at Mandalay Dam.

### Southern Red Bishop *Euplectes orix*

Summer: from 1-49, though some undercounting is likely especially of females. The counts of 1 and low number in the *Euplectes* below probably reflect the visible males, with variable effort to count females.

Winter: undoubtedly much undercounted in winter; 50 at Aberdeen Farm (Hideaway).

### Red-collared Widowbird *Euplectes ardens*

Summer: 1-30. Identification difficulties in winter.

### Yellow Bishop *Euplectes capensis*

Summer: 1-14. Identification difficulties in winter.

### Yellow-mantled Widowbird *Euplectes macroura*

Summer: 6-29. Identification difficulties in winter.

### White-winged Widowbird *Euplectes albonotatus*

Summer: 1-50. David Whitehead Ponds had counts of 5 & 20 in February.

Winter: generally undercounted; 20 at David Whitehead Ponds.



### Spectacled Weaver *Ploceus ocularis*

Summer: 1-7 at 4 sites.

Winter: 9 at Country Club Golf course.

### Golden Weaver *Ploceus xanthops*

Summer: twos at 3 sites.

Winter: 1 at Country Club Golf course.

### Southern Masked-weaver *Ploceus velatus*

Summer: 2-8 at 4 sites but 123 at Mukuvisi Woodland.

Winter: 68 at Country Club Golf course.

### Village Weaver *Ploceus cucullatus*

Summer: 9-21 at 3 sites.

## Waxbills (Estrildidae)

### Common Waxbill *Estrilda astrild*

Summer: 1-39 at 6 sites.

Winter: 4 at Charama Dam.

### Orange-breasted Waxbill *Amandava subflava*

Summer: 6-60 (Av. 24.3) at 4 sites, the 60 at Lake Chivero Bird Sanctuary.

## Pipits and Wagtails (Motacillidae)

### Yellow-throated Longclaw *Macronyx croceus*

Summer: 1-3 at 7 sites, 5 & 7 at David Whitehead Ponds (February) and 6 at Cleveland Dam.

Winter: 2 at Mandalay Dam and 5 at Mazvikadei Dam.

### African Pied Wagtail *Motacilla aguimp*

Summer: 1-10 (Av. 3.2). Mandavu Dam had 1 in December and 5 in January.

Winter: 1-7 (Av. 3.6). Four Mandavu Dam counts had 2 & 3 (May), 5 (June) and 6 (July).

## Finches (Fringillidae)

### Brimstone Canary *Crithagra sulphurata*

Summer: 2 at Country Club Golf course and 3 at David Whitehead Ponds.

Winter: 3 at Charama Dam.

**Table 1. Sites covered in 2018 showing Month (number) and number of counts in brackets (if >1). December counts conducted in 2017. Coverage of Ramsar sites and sites within their confines are highlighted.**

| Site name  | District | Summer   | Winter |
|--|----------|----------|--------|
| Aberdeen Farm (Hideaway)                         | Zvimba   | 1        | 7      |
| Airstrip 2                                       | Hwange   | 2        |        |
| Aisleby Farm & Sewage Works                      | Bulawayo | 2        |        |
| Balla Balla Pan                                  | Hwange   |          | 7      |
| Ballantyne Park North (Blair)                    | Harare   | 1        |        |
| Big Shumba Pan                                   | Hwange   | 1        |        |
| Big Toms   | Hwange   |          | 7      |
| Biri Dam   | Makonde  | 1        | 7      |
| Biri Dam Fishing Site                            | Makonde  | 1        | 7      |
| Boss Longone Pan                                 | Hwange   |          | 7      |
| Broken Rifle Pan                                 | Hwange   | 2        |        |
| Camp Hwange                                      | Hwange   | 1        |        |
| Caterpillar Pan                                  | Hwange   |          | 7      |
| Charama Dam, Muraga Wilderness                   | Kadoma   | 2        | 8      |
| Chinga Pan, Sango Ranch, Save Valley Conservancy | Bikita   | 1        | 7      |
| Chingahobi Dam                                   | Hwange   |          | 7      |
| Chitampa Dam                                     | Matopos  | 1        | 7      |
| Cleveland Dam                                    | Harare   | 1        |        |
| Clifton farm dam                                 | Chegutu  | 1, 10    | 7      |
| Country Club Golf course                         | Harare   | 1 (2)    | 7      |
| Crocodile Pools                                  | Hwange   |          | 7      |
| Crowborough Farm                                 | Harare   | 2        | 7      |
| David Whitehead Ponds                            | Chegutu  | 1, 2 (2) | 7      |
| Deteema Dam/Pan (Detema)                         | Hwange   | 12       | 7      |
| Dolilo Pan                                       | Hwange   |          | 7      |
| Dom Pan  | Hwange   |          | 7      |
| Dwarf Goose Pan                                  | Hwange   | 1        | 7      |
| Eiffel Flats Sewage Ponds                        | Kadoma   | 1        | 7      |
| Gletwyn Dam                                      | Harare   | 2        |        |
| Greengrove Nature Reserve                        | Harare   | 2        | 7      |
| Guvulala Pan (Guvalala)                          | Hwange   |          | 7      |
| Highacres Dam, Esigodini                         | Insiza   | 1        |        |
| Hippo Pools camp                                 | Shamva   | 1        | 7      |
| Kadoma Textiles Dye Ponds                        | Kadoma   | 1        |        |
| Kaoshe Pan system W Chebema                      | Hwange   |          | 7      |
| Kennedy1 Pan & road                              | Hwange   |          | 7      |
| Kennedy2 Pan & road                              | Hwange   |          | 7      |
| Kriedermann's Dam                                | Bulawayo | 1        |        |
| Lake Chivero Bird Sanctuary                      | Zvimba   | 1        |        |
| Lake Manyame                                     | Zvimba   | 2        |        |
| Lanark Farm (Irvines) North dams                 | Seke     | 1        |        |
| Little Somavundhla pans                          | Hwange   | 2        |        |
| Little Toms                                      | Hwange   |          | 7      |
| Livingi Pan                                      | Hwange   |          | 7      |
| Mabuyumabema Pan                                 | Hwange   |          | 7      |
| Madingazulu Dam                                  | Matopos  | 1        | 7      |
| Madison Pan                                      | Hwange   | 2        |        |



|  |          |       |             |
|--|----------|-------|-------------|
| Major Pan                                  | Hwange   | 1     |             |
| Makalolo Pan                               | Hwange   | 2     |             |
| Makwa Pan                                  | Hwange   |       | 7           |
| Mandalay Dam                               | Kadoma   | 1     | 7           |
| Mandavu Dam                                | Hwange   | 12, 1 | 5 (2), 6, 7 |
| Mandiseka pumped pan                       | Hwange   | 2     |             |
| Mandundumela Pan                           | Hwange   | 2     |             |
| Manzichisa                                 | Hwange   |       | 7           |
| Manzimbomvo Pan                            | Hwange   |       | 7           |
| Masuma Pan/Dam                             | Hwange   | 1     | 7           |
| Mazvikadei Dam                             | Zvimba   | 1     | 8           |
| Mazvikadei Ponds                           | Zvimba   | 1     | 7           |
| Mbisa Pans/Plain                           | Hwange   | 2     |             |
| Mbonisa Weir, Falcon College               | Insiza   | 1     | 7           |
| Mesilume Dam                               | Matopos  | 1     | 7           |
| Mfagazana Pan & windpump                   | Hwange   | 2     |             |
| Monavale Vlei                              | Harare   | 2     |             |
| Mpopoma Dam                                | Matopos  | 1     | 7           |
| Mteri Dam Section 1                        | Chiredzi | 2     |             |
| Mteri Dam Section 4                        | Chiredzi | 2     |             |
| Mteri Dam Section 5                        | Chiredzi | 2     |             |
| Mtoa Pan, Hwange (Mtao)                    | Hwange   |       | 7           |
| Muchaniwa Pan, Gonarezhou                  | Chiredzi | 1     |             |
| Mukuvisi Woodland                          | Harare   | 1     |             |
| Nantwich Camp & Dam                        | Hwange   |       | 7           |
| Ngamo Pans                                 | Hwange   | 2     |             |
| Ngezi Dam                                  | Kadoma   | 2     |             |
| Ngwenya Pans                               | Hwange   |       | 7           |
| Ngweshla Pans                              | Hwange   |       | 7           |
| Nswatugi Dam                               | Matopos  | 1     | 7           |
| Nyamandhlovu Pan                           | Hwange   |       | 7           |
| Pans 2-3 km NE of Makalolo Pan, (Back Pan) | Hwange   | 2     |             |
| Pasi Dam                                   | Kadoma   | 1     | 7           |
| Reedbuck Vlei                              | Hwange   | 1     | 7           |
| Runde River crossing, Gonarezhou           | Chiredzi | 1     |             |
| Salt Pans Dam                              | Hwange   | 12    | 7           |
| Sandy Spruit dam                           | Matopos  |       | 7           |
| Scotts Pan                                 | Hwange   | 2     |             |
| Sedina Pan                                 | Hwange   |       | 7           |
| Shapi Pans                                 | Hwange   |       | 7           |
| Shozoloza Lodge, Muraga Wilderness         | Chegutu  | 2     |             |
| Shumba Pans                                | Hwange   | 1     | 7           |
| Shumba pumped pan                          | Hwange   | 12    |             |
| Somavundhla Pan                            | Hwange   | 2     |             |
| Stofies Pan                                | Hwange   | 1     |             |
| Suri Suri Dam, Chakari                     | Chegutu  | 2     | 8           |
| Tambahata Pan, Gonarezhou                  | Chiredzi | 1     |             |
| Tshabema Pan (Chabema)                     | Hwange   |       | 7           |
| Tshebetshebe Pan                           | Hwange   |       | 7           |
| Wexcau Pan                                 | Hwange   | 2     |             |
| White Hills Pan                            | Hwange   |       | 7           |
| Whitewaters Dam                            | Matopos  | 1     | 7           |

**Table 2. Species totals, including recounts, by season in 2018. The number of sites (including sub-sites) in brackets. Single site records, not mentioned above, are given here.**

| Species                   | Summer    | Winter    | Total     | Single site               |
|---------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|---------------------------|
| Harlequin Quail           | 1 (1)     |           | 1 (1)     | David Whitehead Ponds     |
| Fulvous Duck              | 3 (1)     |           | 3 (1)     | Mandavu Dam               |
| White-faced Duck          | 2986 (41) | 1192 (11) | 4178 (42) |                           |
| White-backed Duck         | 295 (8)   | 113 (8)   | 408 (14)  |                           |
| Egyptian Goose            | 961 (41)  | 341 (28)  | 1302 (59) |                           |
| Spur-winged Goose         | 178 (15)  | 27 (3)    | 208 (18)  |                           |
| African Comb Duck         | 550 (21)  | 79 (6)    | 629 (23)  |                           |
| African Pygmy-goose       | 110 (7)   | 86 (3)    | 196 (8)   |                           |
| Southern Pochard          | 101 (3)   | 1 (1)     | 102 (4)   |                           |
| Hottentot Teal            | 140 (17)  | 11 (3)    | 151 (17)  |                           |
| African Black Duck        |           | 2 (1)     | 2 (1)     | Hippo Pools camp          |
| Cape Teal                 | 2 (1)     | 1 (1)     | 3 (1)     |                           |
| Red-billed Teal           | 793 (36)  | 232 (25)  | 1025 (48) |                           |
| Little Grebe              | 152 (21)  | 218 (20)  | 370 (36)  |                           |
| Greater Flamingo          | 20 (3)    |           | 20 (3)    |                           |
| Senegal Coucal            | 13 (7)    |           | 13 (7)    |                           |
| White-browed Coucal       | 3 (2)     |           | 3 (2)     |                           |
| Black Coucal              | 15 (5)    |           | 15 (5)    |                           |
| African Finfoot           | 5 (2)     | 3 (1)     | 8 (2)     |                           |
| African Rail              | 2 (2)     | 4 (2)     | 6 (3)     |                           |
| African Crake             | 4 (2)     |           | 4 (2)     |                           |
| Black Crake               | 190 (23)  | 154 (15)  | 344 (27)  |                           |
| African Purple Swamphen   | 39 (7)    | 6 (1)     | 45 (7)    |                           |
| Allen's Gallinule         | 5 (3)     |           | 5 (3)     |                           |
| Common Moorhen            | 390 (20)  | 296 (15)  | 686 (25)  |                           |
| Lesser Moorhen            | 7 (4)     | 18 (2)    | 25 (4)    |                           |
| Red-knobbed Coot          | 752 (10)  | 13 (3)    | 765 (11)  |                           |
| Grey Crowned Crane        | 34 (12)   | 4 (2)     | 38 (13)   |                           |
| Marabou Stork             | 9 (5)     |           | 9 (5)     |                           |
| Yellow-billed Stork       | 58 (9)    | 47 (6)    | 105 (14)  |                           |
| African Openbill          | 113 (13)  | 64 (1)    | 177 (13)  |                           |
| Black Stork               | 2 (2)     | 9 (4)     | 11 (5)    |                           |
| Abdim's Stork             | 154 (13)  |           | 154 (13)  |                           |
| African Woollyneck        | 6 (4)     |           | 6 (4)     |                           |
| White Stork               | 86 (8)    |           | 86 (8)    |                           |
| Saddle-billed Stork       | 17 (10)   | 4 (3)     | 21 (12)   |                           |
| African Spoonbill         | 63 (11)   | 25 (2)    | 88 (12)   |                           |
| African Sacred Ibis       | 335 (19)  | 133 (12)  | 468 (25)  |                           |
| Hadedda Ibis              | 49 (7)    | 11 (2)    | 60 (9)    |                           |
| Glossy Ibis               | 325 (13)  | 19 (4)    | 344 (15)  |                           |
| Little Bittern            | 4 (3)     |           | 4 (3)     |                           |
| Dwarf Bittern             | 2 (2)     |           | 2 (2)     |                           |
| White-backed Night-heron  | 2 (1)     | 2 (1)     | 4 (1)     | Hippo Pools camp          |
| Black-crowned Night-heron | 1 (1)     |           | 1 (1)     | Tambahata Pan, Gonarezhou |
| Green-backed Heron        | 28 (9)    | 22 (10)   | 50 (17)   |                           |
| Squacco Heron             | 151 (17)  | 38 (7)    | 189 (18)  |                           |
| Cattle Egret              | 1657 (29) | 206 (12)  | 1863 (33) |                           |
| Grey Heron                | 146 (31)  | 63 (14)   | 209 (40)  |                           |
| Black-headed Heron        | 57 (25)   | 34 (10)   | 91 (29)   |                           |

| Species                    | Summer    | Winter   | Total     | Single site                      |
|----------------------------|-----------|----------|-----------|----------------------------------|
| Goliath Heron              | 22 (9)    | 9 (3)    | 31 (10)   |                                  |
| Purple Heron               | 59 (15)   | 18 (2)   | 77 (15)   |                                  |
| Great Egret                | 84 (17)   | 41 (7)   | 125 (19)  |                                  |
| Yellow-billed Egret        | 49 (10)   | 11 (4)   | 60 (10)   |                                  |
| Black Heron                | 67 (10)   | 4 (3)    | 71 (11)   |                                  |
| Slaty Egret                | 1 (1)     |          | 1 (1)     | Mazvikadei Dam                   |
| Little Egret               | 103 (17)  | 19(4)    | 122 (18)  |                                  |
| Hamerkop                   | 32 (20)   | 28 (12)  | 60 (25)   |                                  |
| Great White Pelican        | 1 (1)     | 2 (1)    | 3 (2)     |                                  |
| Reed Cormorant             | 322 (28)  | 102 (12) | 424 (30)  |                                  |
| White-breasted Cormorant   | 266 (14)  | 5 (1)    | 271 (14)  |                                  |
| African Darter             | 54 (8)    | 16 (5)   | 70 (11)   |                                  |
| Water Thick-knee           | 44 (9)    | 43 (11)  | 87 (16)   |                                  |
| Spotted Thick-knee         | 1 (1)     |          | 1 (1)     | Charama Dam, Muruga Wilderness   |
| Pied Avocet                | 46 (6)    | 8 (3)    | 54 (7)    |                                  |
| Black-winged Stilt         | 383 (27)  | 208 (11) | 591 (30)  |                                  |
| Common Ringed Plover       | 4 (1)     |          | 4 (1)     | Lake Chivero Bird Sanctuary      |
| Kittlitz's Plover          | 148 (10)  | 102 (8)  | 250 (15)  |                                  |
| Three-banded Plover        | 83 (21)   | 74 (18)  | 157 (31)  |                                  |
| White-fronted Plover       | 4 (2)     |          | 4 (2)     |                                  |
| Long-toed Lapwing          | 1 (1)     |          | 1 (1)     | Aberdeen Farm (Hideaway)         |
| Blacksmith Lapwing         | 1159 (49) | 367 (40) | 1546 (73) |                                  |
| White-crowned Lapwing      | 30 (2)    |          | 30 (2)    |                                  |
| Crowned Lapwing            | 32 (3)    | 31 (4)   | 63 (7)    |                                  |
| African Wattled Lapwing    | 102 (13)  | 36 (11)  | 138 (19)  |                                  |
| Greater Painted-snipe      | 5 (4)     | 3 (1)    | 8 (5)     |                                  |
| African Jacana             | 1157 (38) | 761 (11) | 1918 (44) |                                  |
| Lesser Jacana              |           | 1 (1)    | 1 (1)     | Aberdeen Farm (Hideaway)         |
| Ruff                       | 448 (16)  | 190 (1)  | 638 (16)  |                                  |
| Curlew Sandpiper           | 1 (1)     | 1 (1)    | 2 (1)     |                                  |
| Little Stint               | 56 (4)    | 18 (1)   | 74 (4)    |                                  |
| Common Sandpiper           | 38 (18)   | 6 (3)    | 44 (19)   |                                  |
| Common Greenshank          | 29 (9)    | 15 (3)   | 44 (9)    |                                  |
| Wood Sandpiper             | 259 (33)  | 25 (3)   | 284 (34)  |                                  |
| Marsh Sandpiper            | 22 (5)    | 14 (1)   | 36 (5)    |                                  |
| Kurrichane Buttonquail     | 2 (1)     |          | 2 (1)     | David Whitehead Ponds            |
| Collared Pratincole        | 534 (4)   |          | 534 (4)   |                                  |
| Black-winged Pratincole    | 14 (2)    | 14 (1)   | 28 (3)    |                                  |
| African Skimmer            | 6 (1)     | 7 (1)    | 13 (1)    |                                  |
| Grey-headed Gull           | 220 (5)   | 10 (3)   | 230 (5)   |                                  |
| Whiskered Tern             | 109 (3)   | 29 (2)   | 138 (4)   |                                  |
| White-winged Tern          | 261 (5)   | 2 (1)    | 263 (5)   |                                  |
| Marsh Owl                  | 6 (4)     |          | 6 (4)     |                                  |
| Pel's Fishing-owl          | 2 (1)     |          | 2 (1)     | Runde River crossing, Gonarezhou |
| Osprey                     | 9 (4)     | 2 (2)    | 11 (5)    |                                  |
| Black-shouldered Kite      | 9 (8)     | 2 (1)    | 11 (9)    |                                  |
| Black-chested Snake-eagle  | 6 (4)     | 1 (1)    | 7 (5)     |                                  |
| Western Marsh-harrier      | 1 (1)     |          | 1 (1)     | Aberdeen Farm (Hideaway)         |
| African Fish-eagle         | 84 (23)   | 44 (19)  | 128 (33)  |                                  |
| Yellow-billed Kite         | 17 (9)    |          | 17 (9)    |                                  |
| White-fronted Bee-eater    | 18 (4)    | 15 (2)   | 33 (5)    |                                  |
| Southern Carmine Bee-eater | 17 (6)    |          | 17 (6)    |                                  |
| European Bee-eater         | 21 (2)    |          | 21 (2)    |                                  |

| Species                    | Summer   | Winter  | Total    | Single site                    |
|----------------------------|----------|---------|----------|--------------------------------|
| Little Bee-eater           | 36 (8)   | 21 (5)  | 57 (10)  |                                |
| Malachite Kingfisher       | 39 (7)   | 30 (7)  | 69 (11)  |                                |
| Giant Kingfisher           | 21 (12)  | 9 (5)   | 30 (14)  |                                |
| Pied Kingfisher            | 115 (22) | 84 (10) | 199 (25) |                                |
| Brown-hooded Kingfisher    | 1 (1)    |         | 1 (1)    | Country Club Golf course       |
| Red-capped Lark            |          | 4 (1)   | 4 (1)    | David Whitehead Ponds          |
| Red-faced Cisticola        | 42 (6)   | 3 (1)   | 45 (7)   |                                |
| Levaillant's Cisticola     | 10 (4)   |         | 10 (4)   |                                |
| Croaking Cisticola         | 22 (5)   |         | 22 (5)   |                                |
| Zitting Cisticola          | 33 (7)   |         | 33 (7)   |                                |
| Pale-crowned Cisticola     | 2 (1)    |         | 2 (1)    | Monavale Vlei                  |
| Tawny-flanked Prinia       | 3 (3)    |         | 3 (3)    |                                |
| Dark-capped Yellow Warbler | 4 (3)    | 3 (1)   | 7 (3)    |                                |
| Sedge Warbler              | 3 (1)    |         | 3 (1)    | Mukuvisi Woodland              |
| African Reed-warbler       | 7 (3)    | 2 (1)   | 9 (3)    | Hippo Pools camp               |
| Lesser Swamp-warbler       | 38 (9)   | 9 (5)   | 47 (11)  |                                |
| Great Reed-warbler         | 8 (6)    |         | 8 (6)    |                                |
| Little Rush-warbler        | 39 (7)   | 4 (2)   | 43 (7)   |                                |
| Grey-rumped Swallow        | 8 (1)    | 18 (2)  | 26 (3)   |                                |
| Lesser Striped Swallow     | 2 (1)    | 7 (1)   | 9 (2)    |                                |
| Wire-tailed Swallow        | 6 (3)    |         | 6 (3)    |                                |
| Barn Swallow               | 80 (1)   |         | 80 (1)   | Eiffel Flats Sewage Ponds      |
| Pearl-breasted Swallow     |          | 3 (1)   | 3 (1)    | Aberdeen Farm (Hideaway)       |
| Brown-throated Martin      |          | 6 (1)   | 6 (1)    | Aberdeen Farm (Hideaway)       |
| African Stonechat          | 1 (1)    |         | 1 (1)    | Monavale Vlei                  |
| Capped Wheatear            |          | 41 (2)  | 41 (2)   |                                |
| Thick-billed Weaver        | 73 (6)   | 17 (2)  | 90 (7)   |                                |
| Red-billed Quelea          | 268 (6)  | 100 (1) | 368 (6)  |                                |
| Southern Red Bishop        | 162 (12) | 50 (1)  | 212 (12) |                                |
| Red-collared Widowbird     | 71 (5)   |         | 71 (5)   |                                |
| Yellow Bishop              | 27 (4)   |         | 27 (4)   |                                |
| Yellow-mantled Widowbird   | 49 (3)   |         | 49 (3)   |                                |
| White-winged Widowbird     | 101 (4)  | 20 (1)  | 121 (4)  |                                |
| Spectacled Weaver          | 12 (4)   | 9 (1)   | 21 (4)   |                                |
| Golden Weaver              | 6 (3)    | 1 (1)   | 7 (4)    |                                |
| Southern Masked-weaver     | 141 (5)  | 68 (1)  | 209 (5)  |                                |
| Village Weaver             | 40 (3)   |         | 40 (3)   |                                |
| Common Waxbill             | 81 (6)   | 4 (1)   | 85 (7)   |                                |
| African Quailfinch         |          | 3 (1)   | 3 (1)    | David Whitehead Ponds          |
| Orange-breasted Waxbill    | 97 (4)   |         | 97 (4)   |                                |
| Bronze Mannikin            |          | 20 (1)  | 20 (1)   | Charama Dam, Muraga Wilderness |
| Pin-tailed Whydah          | 2 (1)    |         | 2 (1)    | Mazvikadei Dam                 |
| African Pipit              |          | 7 (1)   | 7 (1)    | David Whitehead Ponds          |
| Yellow-throated Longclaw   | 32 (9)   | 7 (2)   | 39 (9)   |                                |
| African Pied Wagtail       | 45 (13)  | 40 (8)  | 85 (15)  |                                |
| Brimstone Canary           | 5 (2)    | 3 (1)   | 8 (3)    |                                |

## Participants

T Alegria, J Ball, L Barrie, G Blair, M Blair, J Blake, BLZ, J & J Brebner, P Brown, B Blyth, G Calvert, F Canaael, R Canaael, M Chandafira, A Chanyandura, R Chirimuta, J Cranston, S Cronje, D Dell, P Dell, R Dennison, K Dixon, D Dube, D Duncan, G Goredema, C Grobler, M Hagggar, D Hasluck, C Hubbard, M Hynds, M Jackson, A Jeke, L King, D Kok, K Learmonth, H Lewis, S & S Long, I Louw, G Macdonald, H Macdonald, I Macdonald, G Margerison, A Masterson, H Matthews, J Matthews, N

Mellet, B Morgan, E Muchenje, M Munro, V Muposhi, J Muropa, L Muzengi, T Ndadziira, Ngoro, R Paice, M Parrock, C Pierini, J Pierini, D Ramos, A Randell, M Ribeiro, I Riddell, B Rushworth, D Rushworth, C Shadwell, L Shadwell, M Shadwell, P Shadwell, P Smets, C Stockil, S Stone, G Tarakini, T Tarakini, G Thoneycraft, R Thoneycraft, A Tshipa, D Wiggins, P Wiggins, J Wood, T Wood, T Zondo, Shelley ?



## Booted Eagles

Booted Eagles have been ringed in Valladolid, Spain, and 9 have been released during this season at CRAS Valladolid. A metal ring has been placed on the right tarsus and PVC ring on the left tarsus. The PVC ring is black with white characters, which are composed of a 5 and a letter. Most adults have been ringed, which is why they are more likely to be observed in the coming months. Below is an image with the rings, PVC, sex and morph of these

individuals. If you observe one, contact the editor, or the researcher at the email below. Have a look at the blog for more information.

CALZADA - HEMBRA MC  
PALENCIA



CALZADA - MACHO MC  
NAVA DEL REY (VALLADOLID)



CALZADA JOVEN - MACHO MC  
SAN PABLO DE LA MORALEJA  
(VALLADOLID)



CALZADA - MACHO MC  
MARTÍNEZ (ÁVILA)



CALZADA ADULTA - HEMBRA MC  
POYALES DEL HOYO (ÁVILA)



CALZADA - HEMBRA MC  
LAGUNA DE DUERO (VALLADOLID)



CALZADA - MACHO MC  
VILLAVERDE DE MEDINA (VALLADOLID)



CALZADA JOVEN - MACHO MC  
CASTRONUEVO DE ESGUEVA (VALLADOLID)



CALZADA - MACHO MC  
LA SERRADA (ÁVILA)



Email is [isgdios@gmail.com](mailto:isgdios@gmail.com)

Blog: <https://aguilillacalzada.blogspot.com>

### Useful Contacts:

CEO/Ringing Programme: Julia Pierini [JuliaPierini@birdlifezimbabwe.org](mailto:JuliaPierini@birdlifezimbabwe.org) 0772-894562  
Rarities Committee: Ian Riddell [gemsaf@mango.zw](mailto:gemsaf@mango.zw) 0772-117054  
BLZ Library: [piumosso@zol.co.zw](mailto:piumosso@zol.co.zw) 2304298; 2481496  
Special Species: Peta Ditchburn [specialspecies@blz.co.zw](mailto:specialspecies@blz.co.zw) 0775-940714, 029-2230075  
Mashonaland South: Margaret Parrock 068-22005 or her daughter Coralee 0772-739370  
Eastern Districts: Sue Fenwick 0779-408557 [ingram.sue@gmail.com](mailto:ingram.sue@gmail.com)  
Mashonaland East Natural History Society: Chairman Peter Hadingham 024-2497035  
Secretary: Colin de Beer 0279-23931 [jcdb1936@gmail.com](mailto:jcdb1936@gmail.com)  
*Honeyguide* production: vacant

## BLZ MEMBERSHIP

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 Babbler*, 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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| Youth Club  | 5.00       |
| Schools (high density)                              | 25.00      |
| Schools (private), Educational Institutions         | 50.00      |
| Rest of Africa                                      | 40.00      |
| Rest of World                                       | 50.00      |
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\* If you would like recognition on our public forums, choose the \$200 Corporate Plan. To learn more about corporate sponsorship and BLZ projects, write to [JuliaPierini@birdlifezimbabwe.org](mailto:JuliaPierini@birdlifezimbabwe.org)

**Payment details.** Please deposit into BirdLife Zimbabwe account at **NMB Bank, (Borrowdale Branch) Account No: 260092014** or BirdLife Zimbabwe Mashonaland Branch, **CABS (Chisipite Branch) Account No: 1002399955** or **Ecocash** – Merchant Code No. **22084**. You can **also** pay your subscription online with **Paynow**. Look on the BLZ website on the membership page [www.birdlifezimbabwe.org/joinus](http://www.birdlifezimbabwe.org/joinus), and click on the Paynow tab at the bottom of the page. This is especially important for our members outside Zimbabwe. You could **also** come to our office at 35, Clyde Road, Eastlea in Harare.

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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 tip for the car guard. 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. \$5 entrance fee for BLZ members, \$10 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 charge of \$2 per person at the door please.

### Mashonaland Branch

#### *BirdLife Zimbabwe Mashonaland Calendar of Events: DECEMBER 2018*

|                                 |  |                         |
|---------------------------------|--|-------------------------|
| <b>Saturday 1<sup>st</sup></b>  | <b>Marlborough Vlei walk</b>   | Meet at 07.00 a.m.      |
| <b>Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup></b>    | <b>Mukuvisi Woodlands walk</b>   | Meet at 06.30 a.m.      |
| <b>Saturday 8<sup>th</sup></b>  | <b>Greystone Park</b>  | Meet at 07.00 a.m.      |
|                                 | -17.746240, 31.127204. From the new traffic circle on Harare Drive exit east onto Gaydon road and drive for 3.2km to Halford road, turn right and reserve is 200m on the left. |                         |
| <b>Thursday 13<sup>th</sup></b> | <b>Christmas Social and Quiz</b>   | Meet 5.30 for 6.00 p.m. |
|                                 | General Trivia quiz – by quizmaster Tony Alegria, Avondale Sports Club.  |                         |
| <b>Sunday 16<sup>th</sup></b>   | <b>Monavale Vlei walk</b>  | Meet at 06.30 a.m.      |

## *BirdLife Zimbabwe Mashonaland Calendar of Events: JANUARY 2019*

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|                                 |   |                         |
|---------------------------------|---|-------------------------|
| <b>Saturday 5<sup>th</sup></b>  | <b>Marlborough Vlei walk</b>  | Meet at 07.00 a.m.      |
| <b>Sunday 6<sup>th</sup></b>    | <b>Mukuvisi Woodlands walk</b>  | Meet at 06.30 a.m.      |
| <b>Saturday 12<sup>th</sup></b> | <b>Haka Park</b>  | Meet at 07.00 a.m.      |
| <b>Sunday 13<sup>th</sup></b>   | <b>Lake Chivero Bird Sanctuary</b><br>Meet at Prince Edward School car park.  | Meet at 06.30 a.m.      |
| <b>Thursday 17<sup>th</sup></b> | <b>Mashonaland Branch AGM</b><br>Followed by presentation on African Cuckoo Hawk by James Ball, Avondale Sports Club. | Meet 5.30 for 6.00 p.m. |
| <b>Sunday 20<sup>th</sup></b>   | <b>Monavale Vlei walk</b>   | Meet at 06.30 a.m.      |
| <b>Sunday 27<sup>th</sup></b>   | <b>Lake Manyame (Hideaway)</b><br>Meet at Prince Edward School car park.  | Meet at 06.30 a.m.      |

For further information, please contact Tony Alegria, [tonyalegria47@gmail.com](mailto:tonyalegria47@gmail.com) 0772-438697 or 2490375 (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)

*Please send contributions for The Babbler 146  
February-March 2019 any time before the 15<sup>th</sup>  
January.*