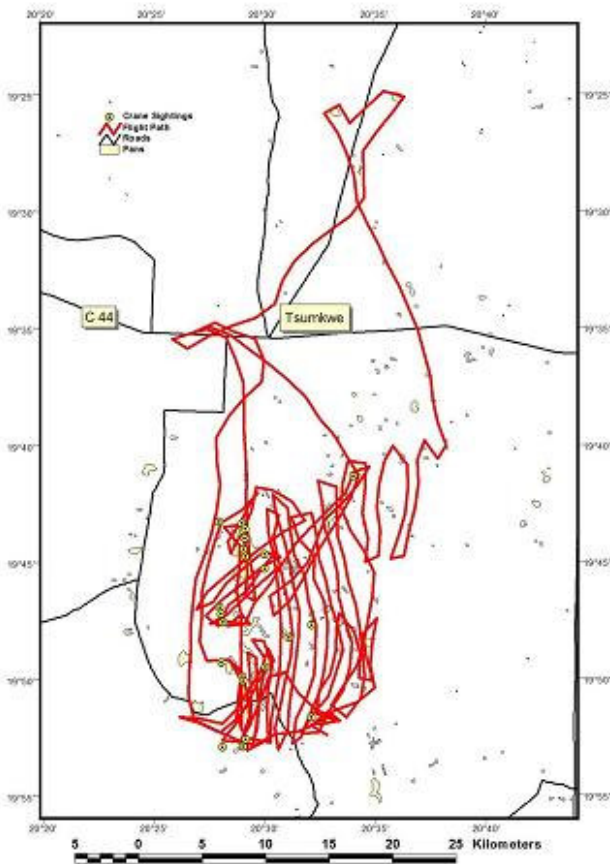




## MAP AND WAY POINTS FOR WATTLED CRANE SURVEY IN BUSHMANLAND, MAY 2006

In Namibia Crane News No. 19, June 2006, we reported on an aerial/ground survey at Nyae Nyae Pans, Bushmanland, where we estimated at least 76 Wattled Cranes in total. This follow-up report brings you a map of the flight path and crane observations (below), and the details of the way points (Table 1). Thank you **Bernd Brell** of Save the Rhino Trust, and **Holger Kolberg** of the DSS, MET for your assistance with producing the data and the map!

From Bushmanland, **Dries Alberts** (MET) reports on 20/10/06 that although no Wattled Cranes are being observed, the Nyae Nyae pans are still about 70% full. Some flamingos have remained in the area and are likely to become year-round residents. So far Tsumkwe has had 20 mm of rain, and a good season is expected.



Map of Wattle Crane observations (yellow dots) and flight path (red line) over the Nyae Nyae Pans, Bushmanland on 31/5/06 (Way points: Bernd Brell; Map: Holger Kolberg).

Table 1: Wattled Crane records, Bushmanland 31/5/06

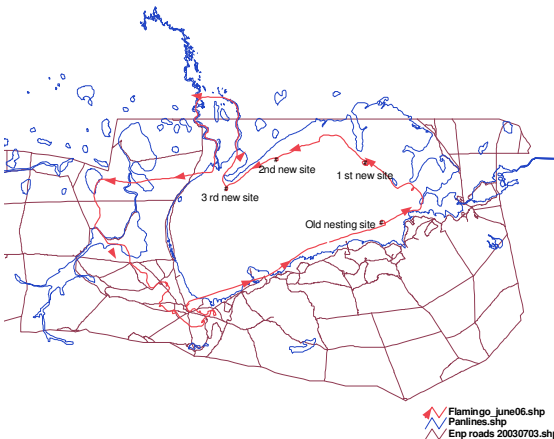
Way point	Co-ordinates	No of Cranes
<b>Am</b>		
552	19°43'42.9" S 20°29'14.7" E	6
553	19°44'01.9" S 20°29'17.5" E	10
554	19°44'48.7" S 20°29'19.7" E	2
555	19°43'19.2" S 20°28'50.1" E	1
557	19°46'59.0" S 20°28'50.6" E	1
558	19°47'36.1" S 20°28'58.6" E	18
559	19°49'57.0" S 20°29'00.9" E	2
560	19°52'37.4" S 20°29'19.1" E	3
562	19°52'55.3" S 20°29'21.7" E	5
563	19°45'19.1" S 20°30'31.3" E	3
564	19°48'17.2" S 20°31'16.4" E	3
565	19°47'44.1" S 20°32'18.5" E	6
566	19°51'41.4" S 20°32'47.0" E	2
<b>Total</b>		<b>62</b>
<b>Pm</b>		
571	19°41'21.5" S 20°34'41.3" E	2
572	19°47'14.8" S 20°28'53.2" E	21
573	19°44'43.3" S 20°30'21.9" E	3
575	19°44'30.0" S 20°29'45.5" E	2
576	19°43'23.0" S 20°29'20.3" E	2
577	19°43'37.9" S 20°29'09.6" E	35
578	19°49'20.3" S 20°28'14.6" E	2
580	19°50'07.7" S 20°29'31.8" E	3
581	19°49'31.4" S 20°30'13.6" E	2
583	19°52'57.5" S 20°28'16.8" E	2
<b>Total</b>		<b>73</b>



## Flamingo breeding activity on the Etosha Pan – further signs of a good rain season

**Wilferd Versfeld:** Science Warden, Etosha Ecological Institute. Email: versfeld@mweb.com.na

On 14/6/06, with the assistance of Steve Braine from Hobatere, we flew over the Etosha Pan to look for flamingo breeding activity. We estimate about 63 000 flamingos on the pan. We estimated the different sub-groups as follows: Greater Flamingos 22 000 birds; Lesser Flamingos 24 000 birds; and mixed groups 17 000 birds. The flamingos are not breeding at their old site; see map (below) for present breeding sites. At the 1<sup>st</sup> site are 11 000 Lesser Flamingos; 2<sup>nd</sup> site 5 000 Greater Flamingos; and 3<sup>rd</sup> site about 3 000 Lesser Flamingos. At the 3<sup>rd</sup> nest site we could see a few eggs on the nests. The flamingos' breeding activity must have started after the crane aerial census which was done on 25-26<sup>th</sup> April 2006, when no flamingo nests were observed.



Map of aerial track route flown on 14/6/06, showing flamingo nesting sites (Wilferd Versfeld).



An estimated 11 000 Lesser Flamingos breeding at the first breeding site at Etosha Pan (Photo: Wilferd Versfeld).

## CRANE NEWS FLASHES

- Cranes and birding receive a high profile in an attractive new publication, **THE CAPRIVI, Namibia's Wetland Paradise, 2006/2007**, produced by Raymond & Monica Spall. Well done to the Caprivi Promotional Project for putting our Wattled Cranes and other Caprivi specials on the map, and for promoting local community involvement including by conservancies! Please contact **Strijs Coertzen** of Tutwa Tourism & Travel, Katima Mulilo for further details (tel. 066 253-048, email tutwa@mweb.com.na).
- **Immanuel Kapofi** (MET, Namutoni) reports on 18/10/06 that this year they have already recorded 49.9 mm of rain (including 10.1 mm on 18<sup>th</sup>), compared to 0 mm this time last year. According to the rainfall statistics of 2005/2006, the last season was the highest rainfall record ever recorded in the Namutoni Area since 1983. Immanuel therefore predicts that the rainfall for 2006/2007 would be higher than other years; and, if the Blue Cranes depend on high rainfall for breeding, that their breeding success may be high too. The two chicks ringed by Holger and Wilfred (see newsletter No. 21) are always near Andoni waterhole, together with six adults; thus the total he recorded on 17/10/2006 was eight Blue Cranes at Andoni.
- Working once more with our gifted crane artist, **Kasha Ostbloom**, we are busy producing an eye-catching poster showing Namibia's three crane species doing a delightful dance.
- Planning for fitting **satellite (PTT) and radio telemetry** to some of Etosha's Blue Cranes in February/March 2007 is underway; thank you to Kerry Morrison of the International Crane Foundation / Endangered Wildlife Trust partnership and your associates at ICF for your assistance so far!

### ERRATA, with apologies:

1. Newsletter No. 20, August 2006: in the report on the crane count at Oponono (page 1), the caption for the map should read: "The red line is our travel log, by vehicle" and not the flight path.
2. Newsletter No. 21, September 2006: we accidentally omitted Gabriel Shatambu as one of the participants in our August crane census. Gabriel (right) worked extremely hard with observations and recording all our crane sightings on the GPS!

