

Waterfowl numbers, Tana River Delta, 2006-2010

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EA#	Species	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
5	Little Grebe <i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	0	0	0		0
20	Great White Pelican <i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>	59	149	0	6	3
21	Pink-backed Pelican <i>P. rufescens</i>	6	63	6	18	31
26	Great Cormorant <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>		9	0		1
27	Long-tailed Cormorant <i>Phalacrocorax africanus</i>	2	53	93	210	0
28	African Darter <i>Anhinga rufa</i>		4	0		0
33	Little Bittern <i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>		15	0		0
34	Dwarf Bittern <i>Ixobrychus sturmii</i>		0	0		0
36	Black-crowned Night Heron <i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>		5	0		1
37	Cattle Egret <i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	931	388	3,242	634	1,248
38	Little Egret <i>Egretta garzetta</i>	7	79	0	15	3
39	Dimorphic Egret <i>E. (g.) dimorpha</i>	1	0	4		0
41	Black Heron <i>E. ardesiaca</i>		8	0		0
42	Common Squacco Heron <i>Ardeola ralloides</i>	11	214	71	8	22
45	Green-backed Heron <i>Butorides striatus</i>	1	17	4	16	3
46	Yellow-billed Egret <i>Mesophoyx intermedia</i>	8	395	169		13
47	Great White Egret <i>Casmerodius alba</i>	3	377	27		4
48	Grey Heron <i>Ardea cinerea</i>	5	55	11	17	9
49	Purple Heron <i>A. purpurea</i>	1	36	3	4	0
50	Goliath Heron <i>A. goliath</i>	10	14	31	19	2
51	Black-headed Heron <i>A. melanocephala</i>	12	18	18	4	78
52	Hamerkop <i>Scopus umbreta</i>		12	0		0
56	Woolly-necked Stork <i>Ciconia episcopus</i>		0	1	15	2
57	Saddle-billed Stork <i>Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis</i>	1	10	7		0
58	Marabou Stork <i>Leptoptilus crumeniferus</i>		10	53	5	5
59	African Open bill Stork <i>Anastomus lamelligerus</i>	2	1,493	102	29	8
60	Yellow-billed Stork <i>Mycteria ibis</i>	5	121	156	7	88
61	Sacred Ibis <i>Threskiornis aethiopicus</i>	36	9	207	41	109
62	Hadada Ibis <i>Bostrychia hagedash</i>	10	0	24	9	7
65	Glossy Ibis <i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>	26	0	320	4	4
67	African Spoonbill <i>Platalea alba</i>	9	7	12	13	16
68	Greater Flamingo <i>Phoenicopterus (r.) roseus</i>		0	0	1	0
69	Lesser Flamingo <i>Phoeniconaias minor</i>		0	0		0
70	Fulvous Whistling Duck <i>Dendrocygna bicolor</i>	15	105	5		18
71	White-faced Whistling Duck <i>Dendrocygna viduata</i>		66	452		6
72	White-backed Duck <i>Thalassornis leuconotus</i>		0	0		0
73	Spur-winged Goose <i>Plectropterus gambensis</i>	4	0	4		1
74	Egyptian Goose <i>Alopochen aegyptiacus</i>	52	2	42	15	29
76	Knob-billed Duck <i>Sarkidonis melanotos</i>		0	4		0
77	African Pygmy Goose <i>Nettapus auritus</i>		0	0		0
84	Garganey <i>Anas querquedula</i>		0	0		0
90	Southern Pochard <i>Netta erythrophthalma</i>		0	0		0
96	Osprey <i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	1	0	3	1	1
121	Eurasian Marsh Harrier <i>C. aeruginosus</i>	2	5	4		1

The 2007 count exceeds 1% of the biogeographic population.

143	African Fish Eagle <i>Haliaeetus vocifer</i>	8	7	8	13	5
215	African Crake <i>Crex egregia</i>		1	0		0
222	Black Crake <i>Amaurornis flavirostris</i>		1	0		2
223	Allen's Gallinule <i>Porphyrio alleni</i>		58	0		0
224	Purple Swamphen <i>P. porphyrio</i>		0	0		0
225	Common Moorhen <i>Gallinula chloropus</i>		0	0		0
227	Red-knobbed Coot <i>Fulica cristata</i>		0	0		0
241	African Jacana <i>Actophilornis africanus</i>	66	50	174	32	2
242	Lesser Jacana <i>Microparra capensis</i>		0	0		1
244	Crab-plover <i>Dromas ardeola</i>		0	0		1
245	Eurasian Oystercatcher <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>		0	0		1
246	Pied Avocet <i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>		21	0		0
247	Black-winged Stilt <i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	14	19	52	12	11
250	Water Thick-knee <i>Burhinus vermiculatus</i>	52	16	108	74	103
259	Collared Pratincole <i>Glareola pratincola</i>	46	0	5	11	471
263	Ringed Plover <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	106	588	492	14	672
265	Kittlitz's Plover <i>C. pecuarius</i>	9	2	83	5	163
266	Three-banded Plover <i>C. tricollaris</i>		0	0	12	0
270	White-fronted Plover <i>C. marginatus</i>	2	0	5	5	1
271	Lesser Sandplover <i>C. mongolus</i>		0	20	5	160
272	Greater Sandplover <i>C. leschenaultii</i>	2	6	44	36	41
272.5	Sandplover spp.		0	0	1,500	0
273	Caspian Plover <i>C. asiaticus</i>	4	0	44		2,347
274	Pacific Golden Plover <i>Pluvialis fulva</i>	2	0	182	21	190
275	Grey Plover <i>P. squatarola</i>	7	15	43	36	21
277	Long-toed Plover <i>Vanellus longipernis</i>	6	27	225	28	1
279	Spur-winged Plover <i>V. spinosus</i>	949	34	1,565	314	1,868
282	Senegal Plover <i>V. lugubris</i>		0	18	5	27
287	Little Stint <i>Calidris minuta</i>	85	1,023	32	125	1,079
293	Curlew Sandpiper <i>C. ferruginea</i>	46	1,155	811	58	686
294	Sanderling <i>C. alba</i>	5	0	19	5	2
296	Broad-billed Sandpiper <i>Limicola falcinellus</i>		0	0		0
298	Ruff <i>Philomachus pugnax</i>	260	2,528	4,061	45	865
300	Common Snipe <i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	1	2	0	1	4
304	Black-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa limosa</i>		36	0		0
305	Bar-tailed Godwit <i>L. lapponica</i>		0	0		0
306	Whimbrel <i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	46	28	242	57	204
307	Eurasian Curlew <i>N. arquata</i>		1	0	5	0
308	Spotted Redshank <i>Tringa erythropus</i>	1	1	0		0
309	Common Redshank <i>T. totanus</i>		1	0		0
310	Marsh Sandpiper <i>T. stagnatilis</i>	6	35	61	1	3
311	Common Greenshank <i>T. nebularia</i>	11	83	41	61	54
312	Green Sandpiper <i>T. ochropus</i>		0	1		0
313	Wood Sandpiper <i>T. glareola</i>	175	62	20	15	80
314	Common Sandpiper <i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	50	138	58	118	72
315	Terek Sandpiper <i>Xenus cinereus</i>	50	52	70	120	105
316	Ruddy Turnstone <i>Arenaria interpres</i>		0	0		0
317	Red necked Phalarope <i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>		0	0		0
317.5	Small waders spp.	172	2,000	46	1,120	600

The 2010 count exceeds 1% of the biogeographic population.

These figures would suggest there may be a small regular population that winters here

Black-tailed Godwits are a very scarce species on the coast

322	Sooty Gull <i>Larus hemprichii</i>	1	3	4	21	27
323	Heuglin's Gull <i>L. heuglini</i>		3	15		21
324	Lesser Black-backed Gull <i>L. fuscus</i>	1	0	2	12	2
324.5	Heuglin's / LBB Gull - Juv.		0	0		14
324.6	Large Gull Ad		0	0		0
327	Black-headed Gull <i>L. ridibundus</i>		16	0		0
330	Gull-billed Tern <i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>	256	834	246	31	316
331	Caspian Tern <i>Sterna caspia</i>	4	47	3	1	6
332	Greater Crested Tern <i>S. bergii</i>	2	12	29		14
333	Lesser Crested Tern <i>S. bengalensis</i>	144	1,120	168	2	408
334	Sandwich Tern <i>S. sandvicensis</i>	1	0	1		1
336	Common Tern <i>S. hirundo</i>		105	3		0
341	Saunders's Tern <i>S. (a.) saundersi</i>	10	89	7		0
344	White-winged Black Tern <i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>	450	994	740	20	184
344.5	Tern spp.		100	0	167	0
348	African Skimmer <i>Rynchops flavirostris</i>	76	0	64		52
486	Grey-headed Kingfisher <i>Halcyon leucocephala</i>	3	6	5	7	5
489	Mangrove Kingfisher <i>H. senelagoides</i>			2		2
495	Malachite Kingfisher <i>A. cristata</i>	5	12	13	20	6
500	Pied Kingfisher <i>Ceryle rudis</i>	19	54	25	31	42
Total		6,379	15,124	14,932	5,257	12,655
No. of species:		66	72	71	59	72

The 2008 count exceeds 1% of the biogeographic population.

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Notes: For all counts, we are indebted to the Tana Delta Dunes Camp for assisting with logistics

2006 was a very dry year. The flood plain was exposed and dry but there were many waders along the river bank as evidenced by good numbers of e.g. Wood Sandpipers. Access was therefore limited as waterlevels were low.

2007 was a wet year. The flood plain was underwater either side of the main river channel by probably c.1m; there was long grass/reeds growing out of this and many many herons, rails/crakes etc; waders were non-existent along the banks but the muddy tidal flats were very full. Over 1,600 herons of 12 species were counted; many were showing indications of breeding at the herony upstream from where we were which we were unable to reach.

2008 was in between 06 and 07 in terms of wetness. The flood plains either side of the channel running up to Mbililo were dry, but beyond Mbililo beside the Moa Channel the sides were flooded and were very busy with birds. We made the mistake of doing the count on a neap tide meaning the tidal flats were totally dry having been exposed for some days since the last flooding and therefore uninteresting for waders. 3,580 herons were counted this year.

2009 - The count was carried out late (in March) and there was a lack of skilled observers which may explain the significantly lower numbers

2010 was the driest year so far with water levels very low and Mbililo a mere puddle with large exposed mud flats (which is where all the Caspian Plovers were). We were not able to access the Moa Channel and there was no breeding activity evident for any birds and a real lack of herons and cormorants.