



Update from the African Raptor Databank for December 2016



Observer	Records
Ralph Buij	289
Kevin Shaw	175
Andre Botha	154
Martin Odino, Simon Thomsett, Darcy Ogada	134
Bruce Wardsmith	70
Holger Kolberg, Claire Kolberg	66
Jaco Smith	53
Dawie de Swardt	51
Washington Wachira	51
Mark Brown	49
Trevor Hardaker	47
Dirk Human	40
Andy Branfield	39
Steven Evans	39
Sidney Shema Kamanzi	34
Claire Kolberg, Holger Kolberg	32
Erik Brohaugh	25
Martin Odino	23
Ashwell Glasson	11
John Rose	4
Dirk Heinrich	2
Marlei Martins, Dr Rob Simmons	2
Robin Teifel	2
Marlei Martins	1
Tobie Pretorius	1

1,394 records were added in December taking the databank tally from 151,329 to 152,723 observations. Records were kindly supplied by the above raptor observers.

We thought you might like to see some of the characters involved with the ARDB project and one who works tirelessly 'behind the scenes' to keep the technologies operational is Andrew Rayner, pictured right, our developer who is from South Africa but now lives near Habitat Info in Cardiff: As you can see, Andrew likes working with phones and is the creator of the amazing African Raptor Observations App. Andrew studied computer science in Pretoria and has an amazing ability to keep quite complex functionality simple and usable. He has a very clear vision of the software and shares with our project his 'Can Do' approach to everything!

Highlights this month included 51 observations in Rwanda from Washington Wachira – these are a significant contribution as we only have 14 other records from this country in the databank. Washington is a Nat Geo Society's Young Explorer Grantee and has been selected to speak and perform at TEDGlobal in Arusha, Tanzania in August "Places birds take me at times- Thank you God".



Andrew Rayner

Washington Wachira, sends us loads of sightings from East Africa, via the app.

One remarkable record came in from Bruce Wardsmith during December of a Red-necked Buzzard perching in a tree at Stilbaai, southern Cape, South Africa. We are getting a few of these unusual sightings of Red-necked Buzzards well outside their known range. To the right is the bird photographed by Etienne Marais in Caprivi Strip. As shown in Map 2, databank records for this species show its range to be much further north but with rare outlying records in red crosses from western Zambia, the Caprivi Strip and the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park region of South Africa. The very similar Jackal Buzzards (orange dots) and Augur buzzards (white dots) are shown on the same map. It is interesting that the unusual Red-necked Buzzard sightings are appearing largely in between the respective ranges of these two more mountainous species.

We have had some great contributions this month from Ralph Buij (previous Tanzania field trip), Kevin Shaw with records from Cape Town and the Garden Route and records from regular contributor Andre Botha. Also noteworthy observations from the trans-Kalahari highway by Holger and Claire Kolberg. Many thanks to all contributors for this month and please keep sending us records through 2017.

We will also be posting an annual report for 2016 soon.

Thank you and best wishes,

ARDB team



ARDB data contributions December 2016



Legend

Y2016_12

◆ <all other values> (0)

observers

- ◆ (8)
- ◆ Andre Botha (154)
- ◆ Andy Branfield (39)
- ◆ Claire Kolberg, Holger Kolberg (32)
- ◆ Dawle de Swardt (51)
- ◆ Dirk Heinrich (2)
- ◆ Dirk Human (40)
- ◆ Erik Brohaugh (25)
- ◆ Holger Kolberg, Claire Kolberg (66)
- ◆ Jaco Smith (53)
- ◆ John Rose (4)
- ◆ Kevin Shaw (175)
- ◆ Mark Brown (49)
- ◆ Mariel Martins (1)
- ◆ Mariel Martins, Dr Rob Simmons (2)
- ◆ Martin Odino (23)
- ◆ Martin Odino, Simon Thomsett, Darcy Ogada (134)
- ◆ Roolin Tellef (2)
- ◆ Sidney Shema Kamanzi (34)
- ◆ Steven Evans (39)
- ◆ Tobie Pretorius (1)
- ◆ Trevor Hardaker (47)
- ◆ Washington Wachira (43)
- ◆ ashwell glasson (11)
- ◆ bruce wardsmith (70)
- ◆ ralph bulj (289)

Map 2: Range of Red-necked Buzzard

