



Southern Ground-Hornbill Research and Conservation Program ExCo Quarterly Report

October 2014



Breeding season report

We experienced an early start to the 2014/2015 breeding season with the first egg noted on 15 September in Janovsky nest, NW Klaserie. This nest currently contains two eggs with expected hatching date on 24 October. The breeding female in Karan Khaya group laid her eggs in the first week of October and the first chick is due to hatch on 9 November 2014. Senalala nest contains a single egg but very little nest lining. Ntsiri nest is fully lined, and four other nests are showing partial leaf lining.



Group updates

Lornay

This group has recently been occupying the open plains in the vicinity of Walker Camp. Two offspring still remain with the breeding pair: one individual ringed in 2011, and the other ringed in 2013 (Figure 1).



Figure 1. Young female from Lornay group ringed with metal ring G31130 still with natal group. Photo: Dr Graeme Naylor.

Senalala

A female ringed in 2007 as a nestling in Senalala nest was recently sighted and photographed (Figure 2) near Lower Sabie. This record is the furthest known dispersal record for females to date, with a distance between the natal nest and her sighting of 118 km.



Figure 2. Female from Senalala group ringed with metal ring G25632, seen near Lower Sabie. Photo: Carl Bodenstaff.

Ntsiri

On the 1st October, the Project successfully captured the Ntsiri breeding pair in our walk-in trap. The pair responded quickly to our call-ups, flying in after just a single 3-minute bout of calling. The pair spent 10 minutes in the vicinity of the trap before finding the entrance to attack the plastic model. We caught them up swiftly, both were ringed with a unique set of colour rings, and a small blood sample was taken from each bird for genetic analysis. The sub-adult remained out of the vicinity during the capture and remains unringed.



Figure 3. Adult Ntsiri male. G32667.
Photo: C Carstens

Caroline

A member of Caroline group, ringed as a nestling in February 2010, has dispersed and was sighted with Janovsky group. Inter-nest distance (black arrow, Figure 4), representing minimum distance dispersed, is 29 km. Caroline group at present contains 6 birds: an adult breeding pair and 4 sub-adult males. Their nest is unlined.

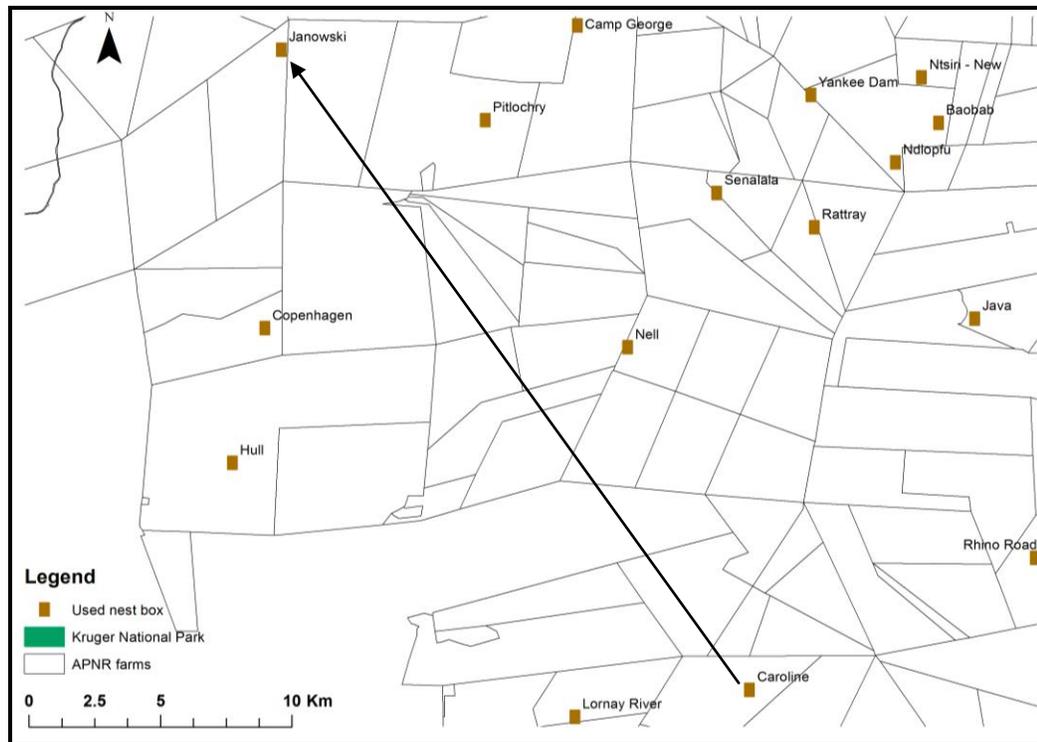


Figure 4. Inter-nest distance between Janowski and Caroline nests in the APNR.

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