

## First New Chick of the Season

*In the previous issue of the Ledibos we asked the question: Which bird species does this four day old chick belong to?*



This is the chick of a **Double-banded Sandgrouse/ Dubbelbandsandpatrys** or *Pterocles bicinctus*.

The adult bird pictured here is a male. Males have very distinct black and white markings on the forehead.

## The Water Birds of Ledibeng (Part 1)

*A number of water birds can be seen on Ledibeng. It certainly is a good place to take a camera and spend a few hours hiking around the many dams located on the Estate.*

On one such outing the following water birds were photographed...

**Black-winged Stilt / Rooipootelsie** or *Himantopus himantopus*. This species feeds on insects, crustaceans, molluscs, worms and also seeds. This bird is highly nomadic and can be found all over South Africa.



The bird above is called a **Dabchick / Little Grebe / Kleindobbertjie / Klei duikertjie** or **Tachybaptus ruficollis**. They are usually found in family groups of 5-6 or in pairs. They feed mainly on small aquatic animals such as frogs, tadpoles and arthropods. In dams where hippopotamuses occur, the dabchicks are often seen following these animals to feed on the disturbed aquatic animals. It is a common phenomenon with this species that the young ride on the parents' backs, even when they dive. This can clearly be seen in the picture taken on Ledibeng.



on water plants, seeds, berries, molluscs, worms, arachnids, insects, tadpoles and even carrion. Not the kind of 'hoender' you would use for a Sunday afternoon braai!!

The **African Jacana / Lilytrotter / Grootlangtoon** or **Actophilornis africanus** is another colourful water-bird found on the Estate. The feet of this species are gigantic especially the length of the toes. They use these giant feet and toes to wade on top of water-lilies and other water plants in search of food such as insects, molluscs, crustaceans and seeds.



The **Grey Heron / Bloureier** or **Ardea cinerea** is a fairly uncommon water-bird and occurs throughout Southern Africa. They usually feed on small fish, frogs, spiders, crabs, insects, small reptiles and small mammals. They usually nest up in trees or on cliffs.



When it comes to breeding this species is regarded as polyandrous (female breeding with more than one male). The other way around is usually when the trouble starts!! The chicks will leave the nest within minutes or hours after they have hatched and the males usually show parental care by protecting and feeding the chicks.

The **Three-banded Plover / Driebandstrandkiewiet** or **Charadrius tricollaris** can often be seen wading in shallow water.



The **Common Moorhen / Waterhoender / Grootwaterhoender** or **Gallinula chloropus** is not all that easy to spot but does occur on the Estate. They usually live in reed beds and marshes. The moment they spot something out of the

ordinary they rush back into the reeds. This makes them very difficult to photograph.

The Common Moorhen has very prominent colours such as a red bill with a greenish yellow tip, the legs are yellowish green and the garter above the tarsal joint is red. They usually feed



They are easily identified by the red ring around the eye and the red bill with a black tip. On the chest two black bands can be seen separated by a white band; hence the name, Three-banded Plover. They usually feed on insects, worms and crustaceans.

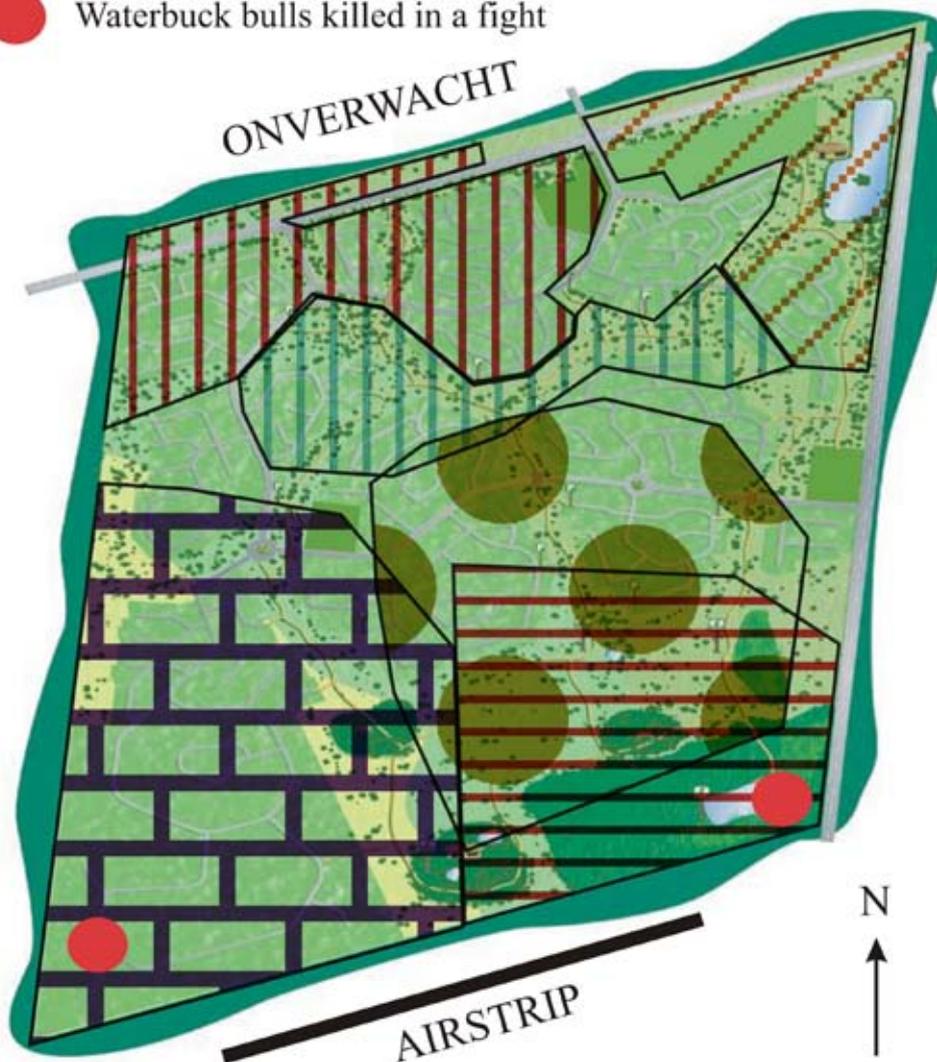
*Take a walk around the estate and see which of the birds featured in this article you can spot.*

Also keep a look out for **Part 2** of The Water Birds of Ledibeng in forthcoming issues.



## The Waterbuck of Ledibeng – Where have they been spotted?

-  Waterbuck bull no.1
-  Waterbuck bull no.2
-  Waterbuck bull no.3
-  Waterbuck bull no.4
-  Nwanedi Waterbuck bull
-  Female range
-  Waterbuck bulls killed in a fight



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*From your Wildlife Management Team*

