



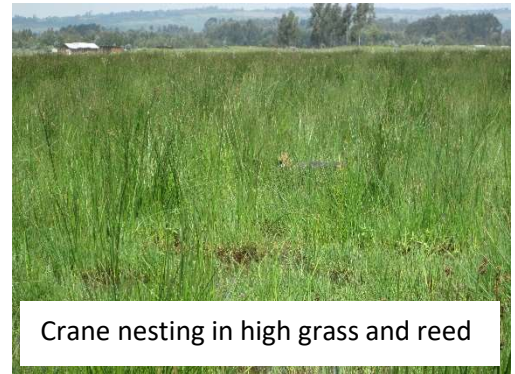
Cranes Conservation Volunteers

Brief summary

Cranes breeding at Lake Ol' Bolossat

The records we have collected concerning the breeding of the Grey Crowned Crane in Lake Ol' Bolossat since 2015, is

- that the breeding starts from June, this is when we record the 1st nests, normally the long rains starts in April and that is why by June we have suitable vegetation that offers suitable breeding habitat for the Cranes,



Crane nesting in high grass and reed

- the breeding goes all the way until the following year in in March (March is when we record the last fledging/chicks attaining flying age).
- Eggs incubation is over by the end of January and that is why the last fledging is recorded in March (11-12 weeks old chicks start flying).



Crane chicken hiding in high vegetation



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To this regard we use two years dating code to name the breeding season i.e. 2015/2016, 2016/2017, 2017/2018, 2018/2019, 2019/2020, 2020/2021, as shown in Fig 1

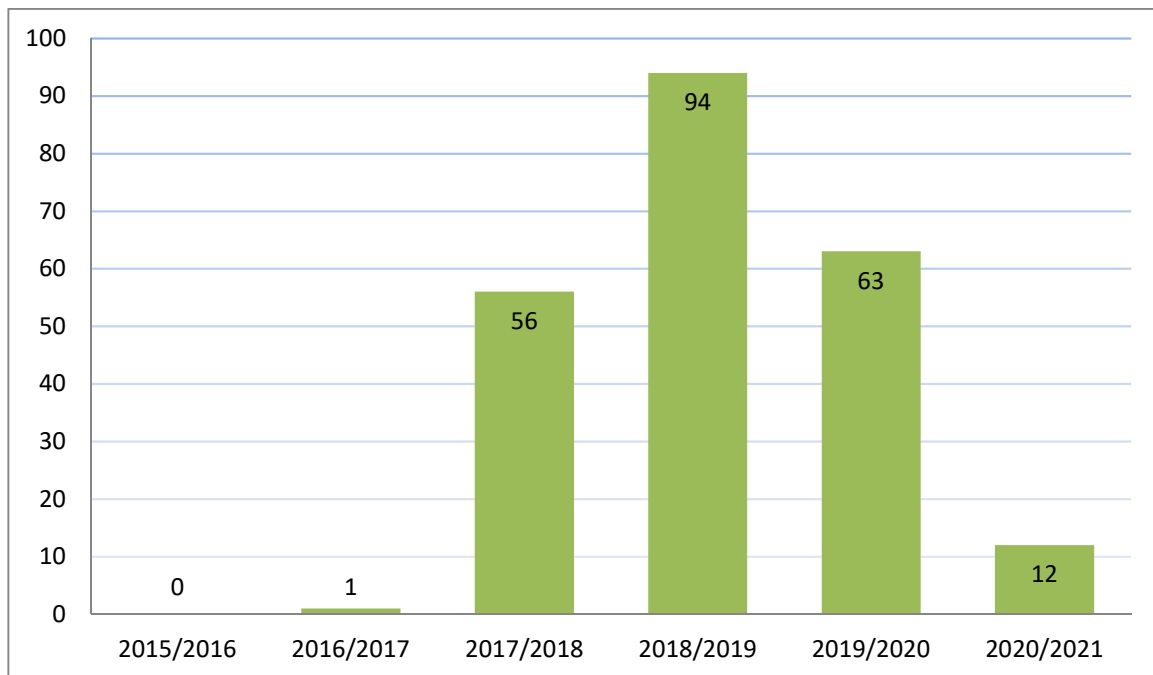


Fig 1 Number of fledged chicks per breeding season

Note

CCV started activities in 2015.

The rise in the breeding success from 2015/2016 to 2018/2019 breeding seasons was as a result of eliminating human-induced threats. By then there was no threats emanating from *Salvinia Molesta*.

The threats were: eggs collection, poaching of Cranes, habitat destruction by livestock, livestock trampling on nests and chicks. This means the curve for these threats took a downward trend until today.

It is after 2018/2019 breeding season we noted genesis of the spread of *Salvinia Molesta* in the Lake and surrounding wetlands used by Cranes for breeding

***Salvinia molesta* is now the main threat to the survival of the Grey Crowned Crane at Lake Ol' Bolossat.**

George Muigai, Nov 2021

