

Birds of Suikerbosrand Nature Reserve

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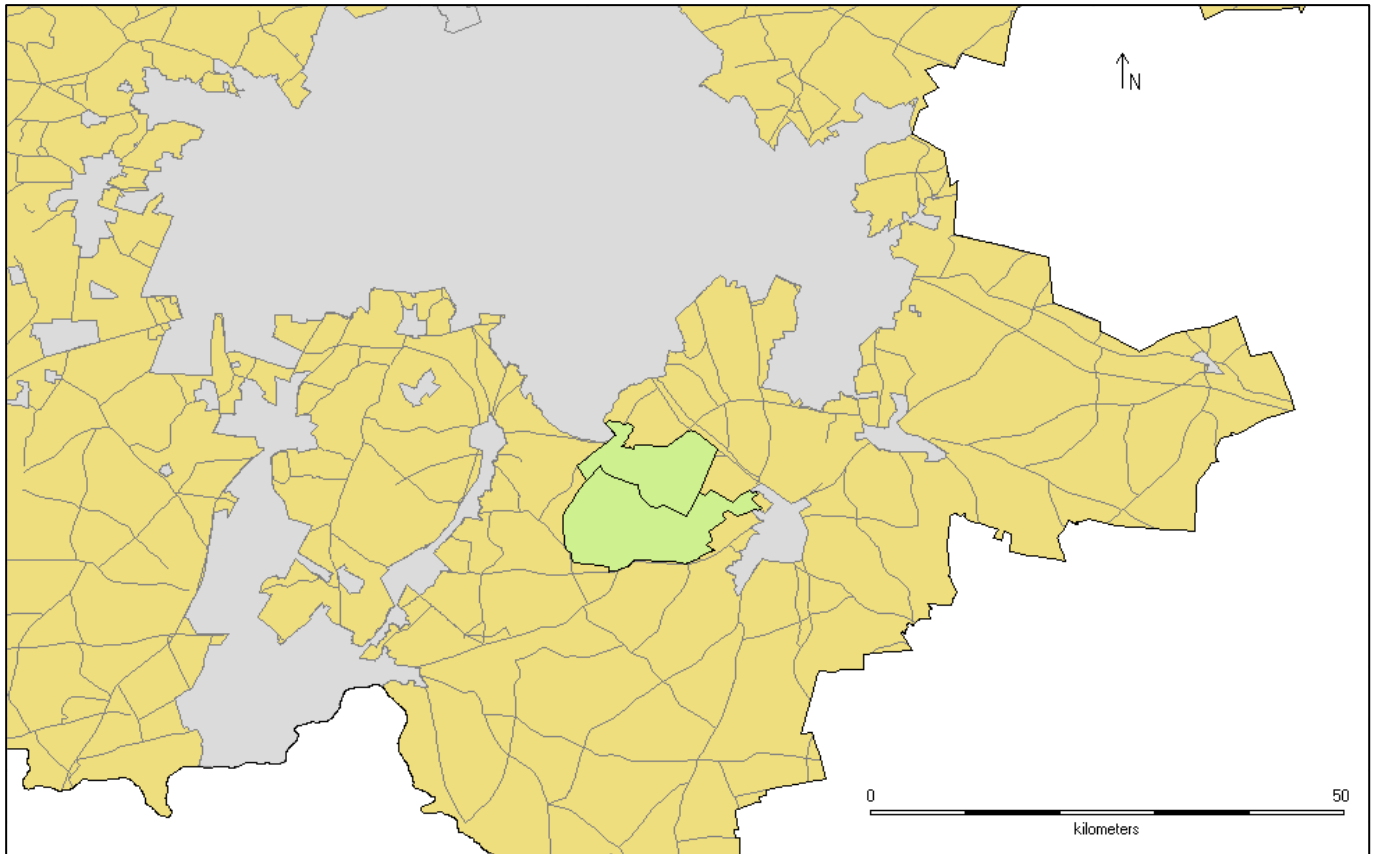


FIGURE 1. Suikerbosrand Nature Reserve shown in green in the south-east of Gauteng. The reserve lies west of Heidelberg and is bounded by the N3 to the east, the R550 to the north and the R42 to the south.

Introduction

In the first annotated bird checklist for Suikerbosrand Nature Reserve which was published before the reserve was even opened to the public, Deryck Day praised the foresight of those responsible for the development of the “hills of Suikerbosrand” as ‘a recreation area and nature reserve for the people of the Witwatersrand’ (Day 1975). Almost fifty years later, as land transformation continues apace in the Gauteng City Region, the Suikerbosrand Nature Reserve is becoming ever more critical to biodiversity conservation efforts. As a tranquil retreat from the clamour of the surrounding urban-industrial complex the reserve is also of incalculable value

to the physical and spiritual well-being of the people of this province.

The launch of the Southern African Bird Atlas Project 2 (SABAP2) in 2007 stimulated a renewed national focus on avifaunal surveys. More recent technological advances in hardware and software available for recording bird sightings (i.e., smart phones and the BirdLasser application) has made it feasible to capture numerous, high resolution spatial records. It is therefore an opportune time to revisit Day’s authoritative account and to reassess the diversity and status of bird species occurring within what has grown to become Gauteng’s premier protected area.

The Region

Suikerbosrand Nature Reserve is a provincial protected area located in south-eastern Gauteng.

Topography

The Suikerbosrand range runs from east to west across the reserve and is one of the most outstanding topographical features of the region. The reserve slopes from below 1600m on the grassy and wooded plains to the north, south and west of the ridge to 1917m at Toringkop on the central plateau (Thusi 2019), the highest point in Gauteng.

The ridge is drained by numerous small streams that have eroded steep kloofs and open valleys. Those in the north drain mainly towards the Rietspruit and Natalspruit, while those in the south feed the Blesbokspruit. The most dramatic cliffs are Feeskrans and Bobbejaankrans in the Steenbokkloof on the southern side of the ridge. Low rocky hills in the east add further topographical diversity.

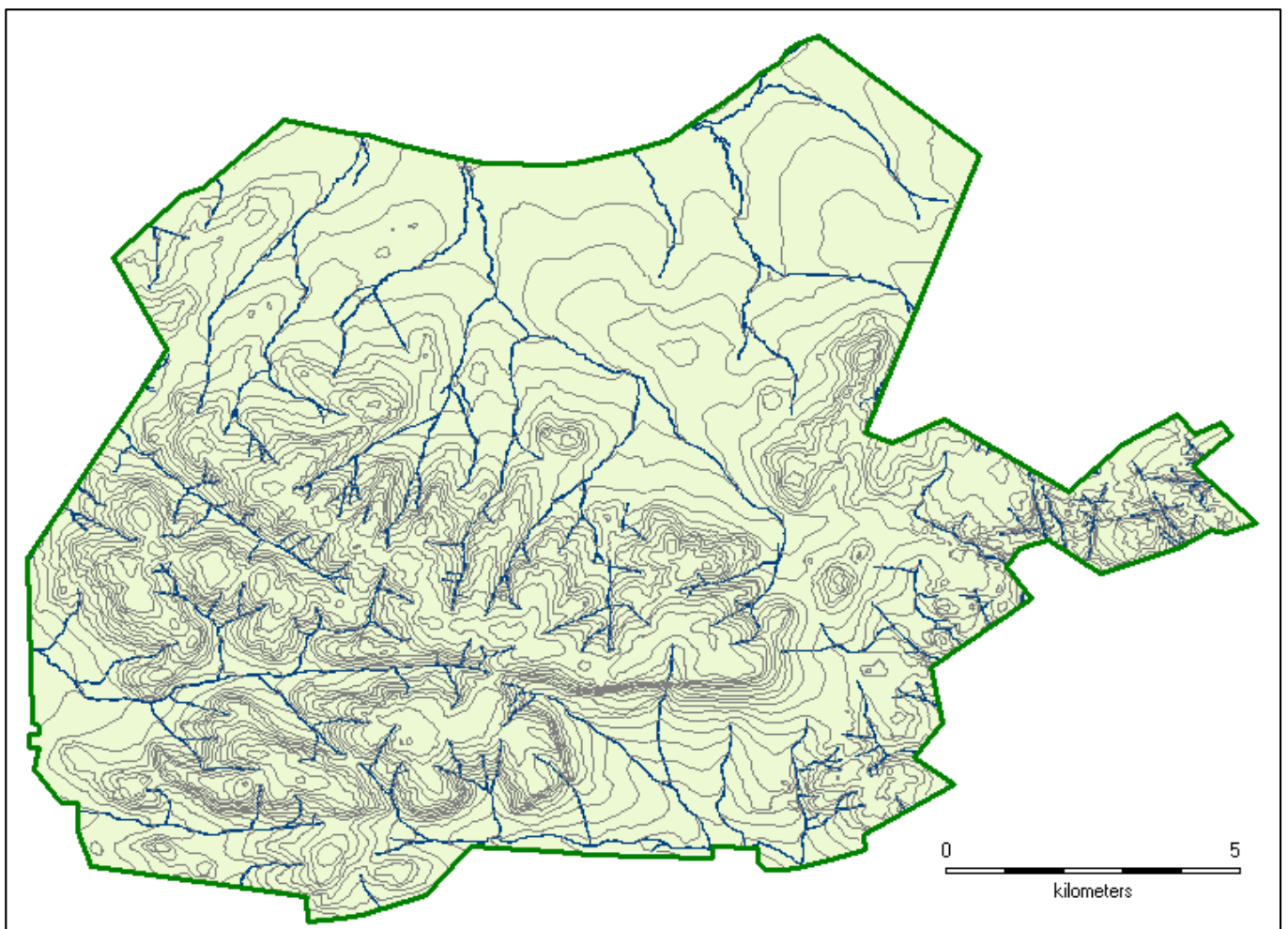


FIGURE 2. Suikerbosrand Nature Reserve with 20m contour intervals shown in grey and drainage lines in blue. Altitude varies from below 1600m to just over 1900m across the reserve.

Vegetation/ Habitats

Despite its location and reputation as a premier highveld birding destination, both the grassland and savannah biomes are well represented on Suikerbosrand Nature Reserve. Three broad vegetation types: **Tsakane Clay Grassland**, **Andesite Mountain Bushveld** and **Gold Reed Mountain Bushveld** (Mucina and Rutherford 2005) and eight plant communities (Panagos 1999, Hoare 2006) are recognised within its boundaries. The habitat descriptions below correspond broadly with these plant communities, although some have been merged or sub-divided and additional categories have been introduced where appropriate. More detailed descriptions follow the initial outline.



Southern slopes and grasslands

Natural grassland dominates the ridge crests and high plateaus (**Summit montane grassland**). While floristically similar habitat occurs on adjacent slopes and lower hilltops (**Steep-slope grassland**), some bird species appear to be largely restricted to areas above 1800m. Shrubs are more common at lower altitudes and typically grow larger and form denser patches on rocky outcrops and in sheltered drainage lines. Steep-sided valleys may be well-wooded (**Kloof bush**) with exposed shallow rock faces and cliffs (**Cliffs**).



Northern plains grasslands

The broad, gently sloping lowlands to the north of the ridge (mainly below 1700m) comprise a patchy mosaic of previously cultivated fields and remnant natural grassland (**Plains grassland and old lands**) interspersed with drainage lines, dams, and marshes (**Streams and wetlands**) and patches of woodland (**Isolated bush**). Low-lying grassland in the south and east has also been affected by past agriculture and is less extensive. In the west, former grasslands and old lands have been largely replaced by encroaching thornveld (**Sweet thorn savannah**). The shrub dominated rocky hills in the

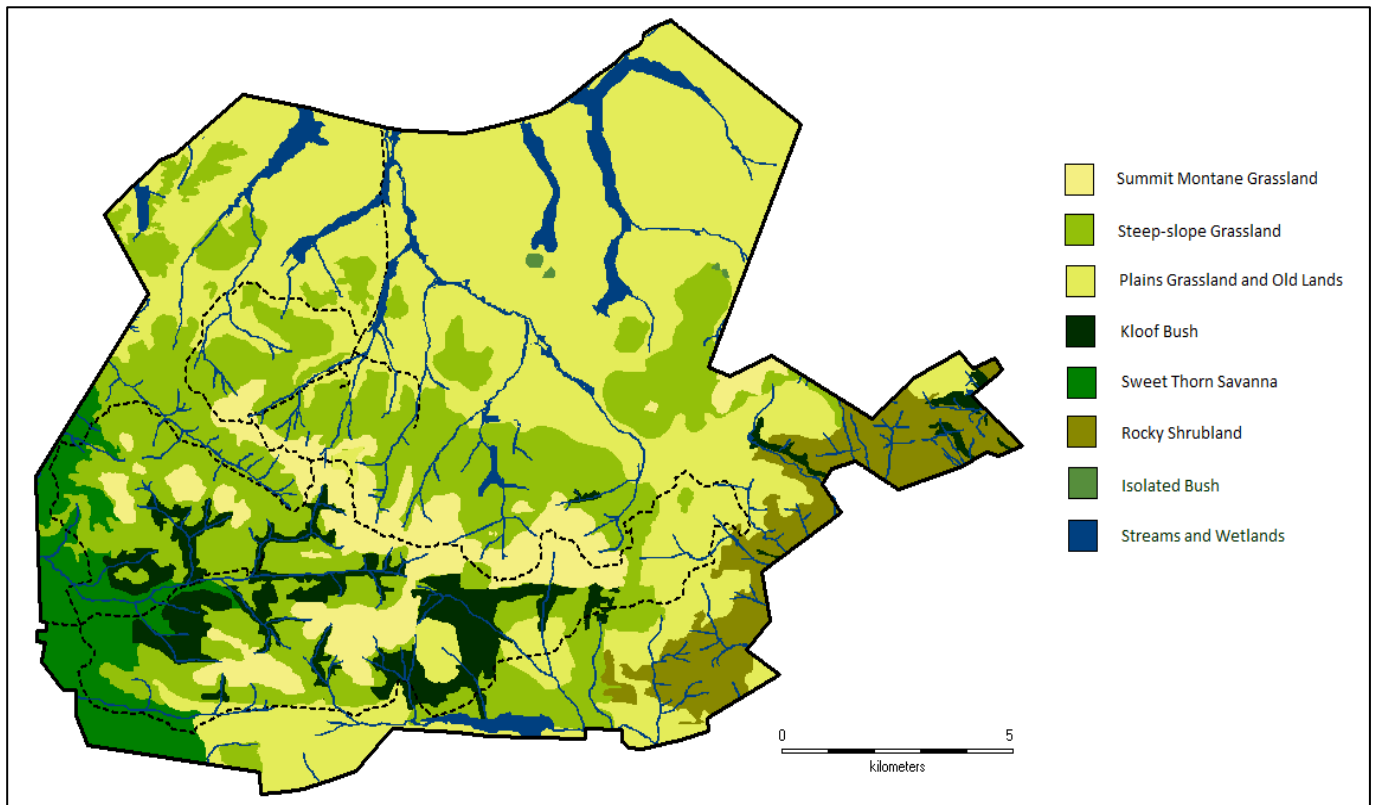


FIGURE 3. The habitat of Suikerbosrand Nature Reserve has been divided into eight categories, seven of these are terrestrial and one is aquatic. Three of the terrestrial habitats are grassland, three are woodland and the last is scrub dominated.

east are geologically and floristically distinct from the rest of the reserve (**Rocky shrubland**). Stands of introduced trees (**Alien trees**) and man-made structures (**Infrastructure**) are also exploited to varying degrees by birds.

Plants are influenced by aspect, slope, soil, rainfall and other climate variables, fire, grazing pressure, and long-term management history. The accompanying habitat map is adapted from vegetation mapping work done by Panagos (1999) and Hoare (2006) and is intended to provide only a generalised representation of the location and extent of the broad habitat categories described below. On a finer scale, clumps of trees within low open vegetation or open patches within

woodland may attract bird species that might otherwise be absent from the broader habitat. These patches respond dynamically to prevailing conditions and bird species distributions are expected to shift accordingly.

1. Summit Montane Grassland (above 1800m)

These grasslands occur mainly along the ridgeline from Diepkloof in the west to Perdekop in the east, but also incorporate the high central plateau (Springbokvlakte) and several surrounding prominences. They are essentially unwooded. Diagnostic species include *Harpochloa falx* (Caterpillar Grass) and *Indigofera hedyantha* (Black-bud Indigo).

The isolated tree and shrub species of this grassland include *Searsia* (previously *Rhus*) *discolor* (Grassveld Current), *Searsia rigida* var. *margaretae* (Margaret's Rock Currant) and isolated individuals of *Halleria lucida* (Tree Fuchsia); dominant grasses and annuals include *Hyparrhenia hirta* (Common Thatching Grass), *Themeda triandra* (Red Grass), *Eragrostis chloromelas* (Blue Love Grass), *Digitaria diagonalis* (Brown-seed Finger Grass), *Setaria nigrirostris* (Large Seed Setaria), *Setaria sphacelata* (Common Bristle Grass), *Cymbopogon validus* (Giant Turpentine Grass), *Trachypogon spicatus* (Giant Spear Grass), *Heteropogon contortus* (Tanglehead or Spear Grass), *Brachiaria serrata* (Red-topped Signal Grass), *Berkheya setifera* (Buffalo-tongue Thistle) and *Acalypha caperonioides* (False-nettle Bush). Spongy mats of *Selaginella dregei*, one of several species that share the common name of Resurrection Plant, grow on sheets of otherwise bare rock turning silver grey during the dry season.



Summit montane grassland

Typical birds of this habitat include Wailing and Levaillant's Cisticolas, Cape Longclaw, Cape and Sentinel Rock Thrushes (the latter in the austral winter), African Stonechat, Malachite

Sunbird, Mountain Wheatear and Long-tailed and Red-collared Widowbirds. Yellow Bishop, Grey-winged Francolin and Eastern Long-billed Lark appear to be largely restricted to higher elevations.

2. Steep-slope Grassland (1700-1800m)

At higher elevations the distinction between this habitat and summit montane grassland is altitudinal rather than floristic and the transition to plains grassland and old lands at lower altitudes is also poorly defined. Pockets of spectacular *Cussonia paniculata* (Highveld Cabbage Tree) and the annual *Hermannia grandistipula* (Yellow Granny Bonnets) are characteristic of shrub-dominated patches while sheltered valleys on the warmer northern slopes are wooded with various broadleaved trees and shrubs such as *Euclea crispa* (Blue Guarri), *Buddleja saligna* (False Olive), *Afrocanthium mundianum* (Rock-alder), *Dombeya rotundifolia* (Wild Peach) and *Gymnosporia* (previously *Maytenus*) *heterophylla* (Angle-stem Spikethorn). *Leucosidea sericea* (Oldwood), *Searsia pyroides* (Common Wild Currant), *Diospyros lycioides* (Bluebush), *Vachellia* (previously *Acacia*) *karroo*, *Rhoicissus tridentata* (Wild Grape) and *Afrocanthium gilfillanii* (Velvet Rock-alder) are other common tree and shrub species found here; grasses and annuals include *Hyparrhenia hirta* (Common Thatching Grass), *Eragrostis curvula* (African Love Grass), *Cymbopogon validus* (Giant Turpentine Grass), *Eragrostis chloromelas* (Blue

Love Grass), *Aristida canescens* (Pale Three-awn Grass), *Elionurus muticus* (Lemon or Wire Grass), *Themeda triandra* (Red Grass), *Hyparrhenia dregeana* (Tambuki Grass), *Setaria nigrirostris* (Large Seed Setaria), *Heteropogon contortus* (Tanglehead or Spear Grass) and *Trachypogon spicatus* (Giant Spear Grass).



Steep slope grasslands – *Cussonia paniculata* and *Aloe marlothii*

Birds typical of grassy slopes at lower altitudes include Wailing Cisticola, Mountain Wheatear, Red-winged Francolin, Rufous-naped Lark, and Nicholson's Pipit. Bar-throated Apalis, Black-collared Barbet, African Red-eyed Bulbul, Bokmakierie, Fairy (austral winter) and Fiscal Flycatchers, Cape Grassbird, African Hoopoe, Cape Robin-Chat and Cape White-eye frequent shrub patches and wooded drainages.

3. Plains Grassland and Old Lands (mainly below 1700m)

The extensive northern plains are a comparatively recent addition to the reserve. The area is predominantly flat to rolling countryside with a shallow slope and little surface rock. Here natural grassland is interspersed with

previously cultivated lands, some of which are still weed dominated while others have matured into stable secondary grassland with good basal cover. The grasslands to east were heavily grazed by domestic livestock prior to the establishment of the reserve and these have become encroached by the dwarf shrub *Seriphium plumosum* (Silver Stoebe or Bankrotbos). Those to the south are currently favoured by large ungulate herds and the grass layer is kept short by intensive grazing. Previously cultivated areas in the south and east have reverted to grassland while in the west sweet thorn savannah predominates. *Seriphium plumosum* and *Eragrostis plana* (Tough Love Grass) are diagnostic species.

Other dominant grass and annual species include *Hyparrhenia hirta* (Common Thatching Grass), *Eragrostis chloromelas* (Blue Love Grass), *Hyparrhenia dregeana* (Tambuki Grass), *Heteropogon contortus* (Tanglehead or Spear Grass), *Eragrostis curvula* (African Love Grass), *Themeda triandra* (Red Grass), *Trachypogon spicatus* (Giant Spear Grass), *Setaria sphacelata* (Common Bristle Grass), *Elionurus muticus* (Lemon or Wire Grass) and *Helichrysum rugulosum* (Wrinkly Everlasting).

Typical birds of this habitat are Southern Red Bishop, Ant-eating Chat, Zitting and Levillant's Cisticolas, Orange River Francolin, Helmeted Guineafowl, Black-winged Kite, Northern Black Korhaan, Rufous-naped and Eastern Clapper Larks, Cape Longclaw, African Quail-finch, Secretarybird, Capped Wheatear

(mainly austral winter), Red-collared and Long-tailed Widows, and Common Waxbill. Flocks of Orange-breasted Waxbill are common along the Eendracht Road and other sought-after specials such as Melodious and Pink-billed Larks as well as Yellow-breasted Pipit have also been recorded here.



Plains grasslands and old lands

4. Kloof Bush

Largely restricted to steep slopes and sheltered south-facing valleys, this woodland comprises a mixture of tree and shrub species and may be open or closed.

Exceptional groves of *Searsia leptodictya* (Mountain Karee), *Olea europaea* (African Olive) and *Celtis africana* (White Stinkwood) occur in the Steenbokkloof and a magnificent stand of *Aloe marlothii* (Mountain Aloe) dominates the south-eastern slopes of the Kareekloof. Rocky scree slopes and Cliffs are also prominent features of this habitat.

The dense mixed bush of the steep upper slopes between Feeskrans and Holhoek merges into *Senegalia caffra*

(Common Hook-thorn) woodland at lower altitudes. The shade grass *Ehrharta erecta* (Panic Veld Grass) dominates the understorey. Other characteristic tree and shrub species of the Kloof Bush include *Vachellia karroo* (Sweet Thorn), *Tarchonanthus camphoratus* (Trident Camphor Bush), *Ziziphus mucronata* (Buffalo Thorn), *Myrsine africana* (African Boxwood), *Rhamnus prinoides* (African Dogwood), *Pittosporum viridiflorum* (Cheesewood), *Ehretia rigida* (Puzzle Bush), *Searsia leptodictya* (Mountain Karee), *Rhoicissus tridentata* (Wild Grape), *Afrocanthium gilfillanii* (Velvet Rock-alder), *Searsia pyroides* (Common Wild Currant); grasses and annuals include *Eragrostis curvula* (African Love Grass), *Hypoestes forskalii* (White Ribbon Bush), *Didymodoxa caffra* and various introduced species including *Bidens pilosa* (Blackjack), *Salvia tiliifolia* (Lindenleaf Sage), *Bidens bipinnata* (Spanish Blackjack) and *Achyranthes aspera* (Burrweed).



Kloof bush of the Langkloof

The picnic site at Holhoek currently provides the best access to this habitat for day visitors.

Birds that typically may be found in the vicinity include Bar-throated Apalis, Acacia Pied, Black-collared and Crested Barbets, Red-chested Cuckoo (austral summer), African Paradise Flycatcher (austral summer), Lesser Honeyguide, Common Scimitarbill, Ashy Tit, Willow (austral summer) and Chestnut-vented Warblers, Cardinal Woodpecker, and Red-throated Wryneck. Violet-backed Starling has also been recorded in this area on occasion.

5. Sweet Thorn Savannah

The lower western slopes of the Suikerbosrand converge to old agricultural lands at Wolwekloof and Schoongezicht. While some grassland remains, the clay-rich lowlands in this area are now dominated by the pioneer thorn tree *Vachellia karroo* (Sweet Thorn) and *Panicum maximum* (Guinea Grass), a shade-loving grass. Other dominant species include *Gymnosporia polyacantha* (Buffalo Spike-thorn), either as small trees or low impenetrable clumps, the sweet-scented shrub *Asparagus lariginus* (Cluster-leaved Asparagus), *Helichrysum aureonitens* (Golden Everlasting) and various grasses *Hyparrhenia hirta* (Common Thatching Grass), *Themeda triandra* (Red Grass), *Eragrostis chloromelas* (Blue Love Grass), *Elionurus muticus* (Lemon or Wire Grass), *Setaria sphacelata* (Common Bristle Grass), *Eragrostis curvula* (African Love Grass) and

Aristida canescens (Pale Three-awn Grass). Two introduced weeds, *Bidens pilosa* (Blackjack) and *Tagetes minuta* (Khaki Bush), are also abundant in places.



Sweet thorn savannah

Tree and shrub diversity are higher on the surrounding slopes. In the north *Senegalia caffra* (Common Hook-thorn), *Tarchonanthus camphoratus* (Trident Camphor Bush), *Searsia leptodictya* (Mountain Karee), *Ehretia rigida* (Puzzle Bush), *Cussonia paniculata* (Mountain Cabbage Tree), *Aloe marlothii* (Mountain Aloe), *Dombeya rotundifolia* (Wild Pear) and *Rhoicissus tridentata* (Wild Grape) are common where Sweet thorn savannah merges into Steep-slope grassland. On the low-lying hills in the south, *Euclea crispa* (Blue Guarri) is among the more common species with impressive specimens of *Ziziphus mucronata* (Buffalo Thorn) and *Celtis africana* (White Stinkwood) often indicating stone-walled ruins. *Vachellia karroo* is also encroaching into previously cultivated areas at Elandsvlakte in the south and is expected to become even more prevalent in future.

Typical birds here include Rattling Cisticola, Jameson's Firefinch, White-backed Mousebird, Green-winged Pytilia, Common Scimitarbill, Kalahari

Scrub-Robin, White-browed Sparrow-weaver, Brown-crowned Tchagra, Chestnut-vented Warbler, Black-faced and Violet-eared Waxbill. Crimson-breasted Shrike and Sabota Lark have only been recorded in this habitat.

6. Isolated Bush

Surrounded by Plains Grassland and Old Lands, these patches of thick bush on the northern slopes of isolated rocky hills are dominated by *Vachellia robusta* (Broadpod Robust Thorn), *Vachellia karroo* (Sweet Thorn) and *Senegalia caffra* (Common Hook-thorn) which attract a diversity of woodland bird species to this otherwise open landscape. Stonewalled ruins provide abundant evidence of former human occupation.

Typical birds here include Crested and Black-collared Barbets, Brown-crowned Tchagra, Fiscal Flycatcher, Cape Robin-Chat and Fairy Flycatcher (austral winter). Spotted Eagle-Owl have been recorded here on occasion and this type of bush also provides excellent breeding habitat for Secretarybird.

7. Rocky Shrubland

The eastern section of the reserve falls within the Witwatersrand Geological Formation and as such is botanically quite different from the rest. Extending from 1600m to just below 1800m, this area of broken hills is characterised by the low shrub *Englerophytum magalismontanum* (Transvaal Milkplum or Stamvrug) and the grass *Aristida transvaalensis*

(Mountain Three-awn Grass). It is one of the few areas where the reserve lives up to its name and *Protea caffra* (Common Sugarbush) may be quite common on some slopes. Narrow wooded kloofs, rocky *Pteridium aquilinum* (Bracken Fern) dominated drainage lines and small dams add to the local habitat diversity. Much of this 'wilderness' is currently inaccessible to the casual day visitor but can be explored by hikers using the marked trail and overnight huts.

Dominant species includes the shrubs *Afrocanthium mundianum* (Rock-alder), *Afrocanthium gilfillanii* (Velvet Rock-alder), *Mundulea sericea* (Cork Bush), *Ancylobotrys capensis* (Rock Milk Apricot), *Searsia magalismontana* (Bergtaaibos), *Indigofera melanadenia* and *Diospyros lycioides* (Bluebush) and the grasses *Eragrostis curvula* (African Love Grass), *Loudetia simplex* (Russet Grass) and *Cymbopogon nardus* (Giant Turpentine Grass).



Rocky shrubland

Typical birds here include Bokmakierie, Cape Bunting, Mocking Cliff Chat, Wailing Cisticola, Fiscal Flycatcher, Freckled Nightjar, Black-chested Prinia,

Cape Robin-chat, and Swainson's Spurfowl. Specials such as African Rock Pipit and Dark-capped Yellow Warbler have also been recorded.

8. Streams and Wetlands

The reserve has an abundance of small streams, but most are seasonal and only the largest dams retain water during extended dry periods. The northward expansion of the reserve has greatly increased the extent of this habitat under protection. Kloof bush extends into more open country along some of the deeper watercourses, but *Leucosidea sericea* (Oldwood/Ouhout) and *Setaria sphacelata* (Golden Bristle Grass) are considered characteristic of this habitat.

Other dominant grass and annual species include *Phragmites australis* (Common Reed), *Hyparrhenia dregeana* (Tambuki Grass), *Imperata cylindrica* (Cotton-wool Grass), *Schoenoplectus brachyceras*, *Arundinella nepalensis* (River Grass), *Leersia hexandra* (Rice Grass), *Andropogon appendiculatus* (Blue Grass), *Persicaria attenuata* (Velvet Knotweed), *Ludwigia palustris* (Water Purslane) and the introduced *Verbena brasiliensis* (Brazilian Verbena).

The wetland at Elandsvlakte in the south and the headwaters of the Natalspruit and Rietspruit in the north are the most extensive areas of marsh habitat on the reserve. The two northern wetlands and Koppieskraal Dam are visible from the Eendracht Road and together with several smaller roadside dams located between the main gate

and the Diepkloof visitor (administrative) centre are the most rewarding waterbird habitats that are accessible to visitors.



Wetlands

Red-knobbed Coot, Reed Cormorant, Yellow-billed Duck, Little Grebe, Common Moorhen, and Lesser Swamp and Little Rush Warblers occur mainly on dams with open water and patches of tall emergent vegetation. Three-banded Plover, African Snipe and Cape Wagtail frequent open shorelines and muddy patches in larger wetlands while Marsh Owl and Fan-tailed Widow are largely restricted to wetland areas with good grass cover. African Grass Owl is a rarely seen resident and White-backed Duck are also recorded on occasion.

9. Cliffs

Cliffs ranging in height from 15-45m occur mainly along the steeper southern slopes of the ridge and these are often associated with patches of Kloof bush. The most impressive is Bobbejaanskrans in the Steenbokkloof where Verreaux's Eagle nested regularly in the past and are still seen on occasion.



Cliffs and kooibos bush

Birds typical of cliff habitat include Mocking Cliff Chat, Peregrine Falcon, Cape Rock Thrush, Cape Bunting, and Mountain Wheatear. Patches of fresh whitewash in the vicinity of Holhoek and elsewhere warrant further investigation.

10. Alien Trees

Management of invasive alien plant species is a priority for the reserve. The severe historical infestations of *Acacia*, *Eucalyptus* and *Pinus* species have been cleared and after the successful treatment of regrowth at Delvillebos in 2019 and subsequent regular follow-up, only isolated specimens of *Acacia mearnsii* (Black Wattle) remain. *Populus canescens* (Grey Poplar) is present in several drainage lines and many inaccessible cliffs have been colonised by *Opuntia ficus-indica* (Sweet Prickly Pear) which is likely to prove extremely difficult to eradicate. The biggest threat at present is the invasive species *Campuloclinium macrocephalum* (Pompom Weed), but specimens are controlled as they are encountered.

Species associated with remaining stands of alien trees in the gardens and yards of more recently incorporated

farmsteads include Amur Falcon (austral summer), Southern Fiscal, Cape Sparrow, White-browed Sparrowweaver, Cape Starling, and Red-throated Wryneck.



Eucalyptus tree at Mayfair

11. Infrastructure (buildings, bridges, and ruins)

The Diepkloof visitor (administrative) centre includes a farm museum, picnic area, natural bush, planted woodland, lawns and ponds. This artificial concentration of habitats attracts a wide diversity of bird species and consequently provides excellent birding opportunities. Staff and visitor accommodation (including trail huts), entrance gates, derelict farmhouses and their outbuildings, stables, paddocks, bridges, culverts, livestock troughs and leaking taps are all exploited by birds to the extent that their individual preferences and tolerance of human proximity permit.

Only the introduced House Sparrow appears to be restricted to man-made habitat, but Mocking Cliff Chat, Barn Owl, Speckled Pigeon, Pied Starling, and South African Cliff Swallow also frequent such areas.



Protea camp

Stone-walled ruins occur widely within the reserve, and these have long been acknowledged as evidence of prior occupation by ancestors of today's Setswana-speaking people (e.g., Day 1975). A more recent study employing laser technology known as **LIDAR** (light detection and ranging) has cast new light on the significance of the structures revealing the remains of a 'lost African city' (Sadr 2018). The extended period of concentrated human occupation continued into the 1800s in the western foothills of the Suikerbosrand, including much of the area now characterised by Sweet thorn savannah.

12. Aerial

Several species are mainly seen in skies above and while they may settle on perches, collect mud from pools or build nests, they cannot readily be assigned to any terrestrial habitat.

Swallows, martins, and swifts are the most obvious members of this groups, but many raptor species are also more commonly recorded in flight.



Cliff Swallows feeding over northern extension plains grasslands and wetlands

Geology

The reserve incorporates parts of two quite distinct geological systems (Day 1975 and references therein, Norman and Whitfield 2006, Thusi 2019). The low rocky hills in the east and south-east are sedimentary in origin and are dominated by quartzite and quartz pebble conglomerate of the older Witwatersrand Supergroup. The remaining approximately 82% of the reserve is overlain with volcanic rock (mainly basalt, but with narrow bands of feldspar porphyry and tuff in the east) of the younger Ventersdorp Supergroup. Small dolerite and diabase intrusions have also been identified. Geology influences soil and vegetation and while there is considerable overlap in the avifauna of the two systems there is less habitat diversity in the east.

Climate

Rainfall and maximum and minimum temperatures were measured daily at the Diepkloof weather station at Suikerbosrand Nature Reserve between 2018 and 2022 (D. Koen, unpublished data). Mean annual rainfall was 683mm (range 610-874mm) with most rain falling between October and April (Figure 4.). Rainfall in 2018 and 2020 was below the long-term average of 650-700mm measured between 1980 and 2016, (Thusi 2019), 2019 and 2021 were average years while 2022 was wet (874mm). Rainfall is variable across the reserve tending to be higher in the east (Day 1975). Short heavy showers, frequent lightning strikes and occasional hail are typical of highveld thunderstorms, while frontal systems

bring more gentle rain that may last for several days (Thusi 2019). At times the barrier effect of the ridge may restrict rain to either the north or south (Day 1975).

Overnight temperatures occasionally dropped below zero between May and September (minimum -3.6°C). While frost is regular, snowfall is infrequent (Thusi 2019) and last fell on 10 July 2023. No snow fell during our surveys. Daytime temperatures typically remained below 20°C during the coldest months. There was little variation in the mean maximum daytime temperatures during the warmest months (26-28°C) with a maximum of 37°C. Early mornings may still be cold (especially if there is wind) and a jersey or light jacket is essential.

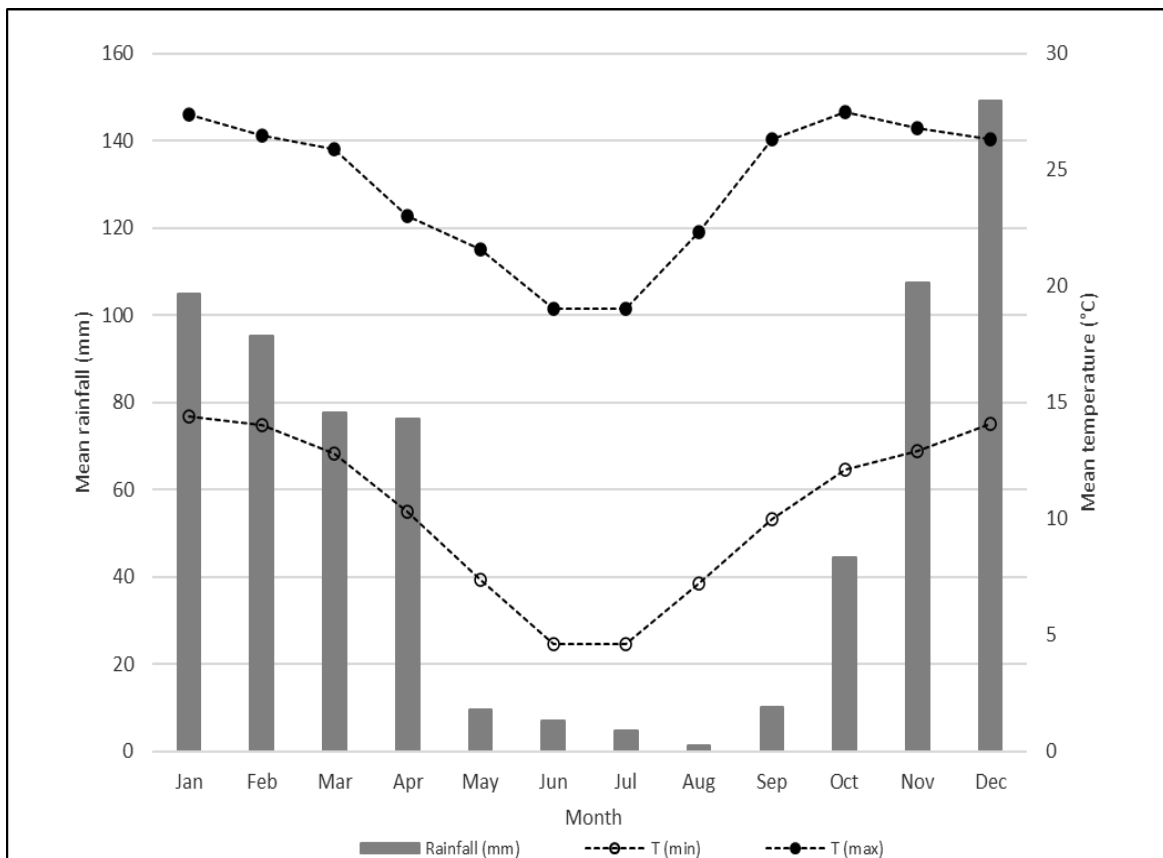


FIGURE 4. Climate data for Suikerbosrand Nature Reserve indicate two main seasons. Warm and wet conditions are expected between October and March while it is cold and dry during May and August.

There are effectively two main seasons. October to March is warm and wet while May to August is cool and dry. April and September are transitional months of declining or increasing temperatures respectively and lower, more unpredictable rainfall.

Description of data used

Most of the recent bird distribution records used in this analysis were collected by the authors during 76 intensive surveys (lasting 1-4 days) between February 2018 and January 2023. The number of survey days per month ranged from 5-18 (Table 1). Various travel and access restrictions during the height of the Covid-19 pandemic severely constrained fieldwork in 2020.

Observations were captured using the **BirdLasser App** for smart phones and all records were submitted to the Southern African Bird Atlas Project 2 (SABAP2) either as full protocol (two hours to five days duration) or ad hoc cards (less than two hours). Surveys spanned the original reserve and the northern extension. The **Reporting Rates** (frequency of observations) for each species were calculated by dividing the number of surveys (all pentads combined) on which a given species was recorded by the total number of surveys conducted and shown as a percentage.

By comparison, the original checklist compiled by members of the Witwatersrand Bird Club (Day 1975) was based on an intensive 50-week survey of 61 square-mile blocks within

the original extent of the reserve alone. The fieldwork occurred mainly between September 1970 and June 1972, though supplementary records were collected by S. Wolff of the Transvaal Nature Conservation Division up until January 1975 (Day 1975). In that survey, effort varied amongst habitat types according to the preferences of the observers and not all habitat types were visited each week. The surveys per habitat and the number of visits to these on which each species was sighted or heard were noted but not the number of observers, the duration of each survey nor the overall number of weeks in which species that use more than one habitat were recorded. For purposes of comparison with the current study, an approximate baseline reporting rate was calculated (as for our survey) based on data provided by Day (1975).

This approach is expected to under report the prevalence of species utilising only a mixture of relatively poorly surveyed habitats. Cliffs, rocky shrubland and sweet thorn savannah were the least well surveyed with visits over 15, 22 and 28 weeks out of 50 respectively. Aerial species were surveyed each week and those using mixed habitats including kloof bush on $\geq 90\%$ of visits, so reporting rates are equivalent to ours and those calculated for BIRP during 1995-2003 (Harebottle *et al.* 2004). **Reporting rates** for water associated species and others confined to a single habitat were calculated using the actual number of visits to that habitat and are also broadly equivalent to ours. Comparable **reporting rates** are all indicated with an asterisk.

The **Birds in Reserves Project (BIRP)** initiated and coordinated by the Avian Demography Unit (later Animal Demography Unit) of the University of Cape Town provides a third major bird occurrence dataset for the reserve (including the northern extension after 2000). Between 1995-2003, 195 BIRP cards were compiled for Suikerbosrand Nature Reserve and the results were analysed by Harebottle *et al.* (2004). Observers were encouraged to visit all habitats over a minimum of three hours and a reporting rate was calculated for each species. Participants would have had access to hiking trails and the Diepkloof and Holhoek picnic sites, but most observations elsewhere would have been from a vehicle.

TABLE 1. Breakdown of monthly sampling trips during 1995-2003 and 2018-2023 (days in brackets).

Years	1995-2003	2018-2023
Months		
January	16	4 (5)
February	11	9 (11)
March	14	6 (10)
April	20	6 (9)
May	11	7 (18)
June	15	6 (9)
July	19	7 (10)
August	22	7 (9)
September	20	7 (9)
October	10	6 (9)
November	19	7 (10)
December	18	4 (8)

All three studies were aimed at providing a representative picture of the avifauna present at the time. Nevertheless, important differences in

survey design and execution are acknowledged and these should be considered when comparing reporting rates amongst the studies.

The reserve falls into six main SABAP2 survey grids which are known as pentads (i.e., 2625_2810, 2825_2815, 2630_2810, and 2630_2815, 2625_2805 and 2630_2805) – a seventh pentad was only surveyed once (i.e., 2625_2820 – that being at the eastern perimeter of the reserve – the western outskirts of Heidelberg town - and difficult to access). These have all been well surveyed (67 to 728 full protocol cards between 2007 and November 2023). While the provincial protected areas network provides an obvious focal point for atlas surveys (relatively safe, accessible, and representing a diversity of natural habitats), lists generated for SABAP2 can include sightings made anywhere within a pentad over a five-day period. It is therefore possible that some species recorded for a pentad do not occur in the protected area of interest.

Species that are known to occur in the area but have yet to be confirmed for Suikerbosrand Nature Reserve or for which there is uncertainty about the accuracy of the available records were listed separately and require follow-up work. Additional species not recorded by us but confirmed for the reserve by other observers were included in the checklist and maps where relevant details could be obtained from the observer. Similarly, verifiable records of species considered unusual for the reserve that were reported by other observers either directly to the authors

or via various social media platforms with a strong birding focus were used to supplement our own observations.

The frequency with which species are observed within a protected area may differ from that calculated for the broader pentad. White Storks, African Sacred Ibis and Grey-headed Gulls for example, are regular visitors to the Platkop Landfill Site just north of the R550 but are seldom found within the reserve. The reverse may also apply with species that are common within the reserve being rare or absent from the broader agricultural and urban mosaic around the reserve.

Additional data sources were used to supplement species distribution maps and months of occurrence tables and as sources of breeding and population data. These included the full BIRP database (1995-2009) (BIRP 2012), **Coordinated Waterbird Counts (CWAC)** (2006-2022), **Coordinated Avifaunal Roadcounts (CAR)** (2004-2022), owl surveys (2009-2022 but excluding 2020 and 2021), **SAFRING** ringing records (1971-2017), lists compiled by reserve bird monitoring teams (2005-2008), ad hoc sightings of rare or interesting species reported by GDARDE staff (mainly D. Koen, R. Deysel and N. De Beer (née Horn) (2000-2022) and previously published checklists (e.g., Anon 1986).

Nomenclature used

Nomenclature is based on the Checklist of Birds of South Africa as published annually by BirdLife South Africa.

Conservation

In 1970/1 portions of nine farms in the Heidelberg District of the then Transvaal (totalling 11 595ha) were purchased for the development of a recreation area and nature reserve (Thusi 2019). Roads, hiking trails and other visitor facilities were built, internal fences were removed, and a perimeter game fence was erected (Duggan 1983). Various ungulate species such as Blesbok (*Damaliscus pygargus phillipsi*), Springbok (*Antidorcas marsupialis*), Red Hartebeest (*Alcelaphus buselaphus*), Mountain Reedbuck (*Redunca fulvorufula*), Southern Reedbuck (*Redunca arundinum*), Black Wildebeest (*Connochaetes gnou*), Plains Zebra (*Equus quagga*), Common Eland (*Taurotragus oryx*) and Greater Kudu (*Tragelaphus strepsiceros*) that would have occurred in the area when it was first settled were reintroduced (Thusi 2019). The area was formally proclaimed as the Suikerbosrand Nature Reserve in 1974 (Day 1975) and has been managed by the provincial government as a state protected area since its inception. Cheetahs were reintroduced in 1975 (Duggan 1983) but bred too prolifically, and consequently impacting too much on some game animals, that at the time it was deemed necessary to remove them.

Additional portions of seven farms to the north of the ridge totalling a further 6 300ha (referred to as the extension) were purchased between 2000 and 2006 (Thusi 2019). Part of the additional land was formally proclaimed in June 2014 while much of the remainder is now owned by the

Koppieskraal Community Property Association but is managed as part of the reserve (Thusi 2019). This brings the total area under conservation management to approximately 18 000ha.

The reserve is classified as a critical biodiversity area in terms of version 3.3 of the Gauteng Conservation Plan and is a priority conservation area for the province. It is also recognised as an Important Bird and Biodiversity Area by BirdLife South Africa (Marnewick *et al.* 2015).

The reserve has a fire management programme, routinely assesses grazing pressure, and manages wild ungulate populations accordingly. Illegal hunting and plant harvesting, arson fires, overhead powerlines and barbed wire fences are long-standing threats to birds and their habitats and efforts to address these are ongoing. Bird diversity and abundance data is collected on an ongoing basis through a broad suite of well-established survey and monitoring programmes (e.g., SABAP2, CAR, CWAC).

Avitourism

This is excellent highveld birding country and is about an hour's drive from Johannesburg. To get here take the N3 highway towards Heidelberg (Durban). Look out for the R550 (Nigel/Lenasia) off-ramp; take this exit and then turn right, crossing the freeway. Suikerbosrand Nature Reserve is then on your left with the well-known Eendracht Road about 3km from the R550-N3 intersection. This 5km stretch of gravel road cuts

across the **Plains grassland and old lands** of the north-eastern corner of the extension to the reserve and includes **Streams and wetlands** associated with headwaters of the Rietspruit and Natalspruit.

The condition of the road surface has deteriorated in recent years and sections may become treacherous after heavy rains. The network of tracks that branch off the Eendracht Road are for management purposes only and are not open to the public. As with birding on any public road in Gauteng, be sure to pull over to the side before stopping. While this may seem like an excellent area for a leg stretch and a restorative cup of coffee, be aware of your surroundings as there is currently no access control and criminals are known to use this road.

Depending on the wind direction, the traffic noise can be intrusive, especially close to the R550, and it is worth driving to the first bridge before stopping. This area is raised above the surrounding landscape and affords a wonderful panoramic view of the extension with the Suikerbosrand as a backdrop. It is also a favourite area for swifts and swallows in the austral summer.

Levaillant's and Zitting Cisticolas, African Stonechat, Red-capped Lark, Orange River Francolin, Swainson's Spurfowl, South African Cliff Swallow (austral summer), Red and Yellow-crowned Bishops, Orange-breasted Waxbill, Capped Wheatear (austral winter), Marsh Owl, Black-winged Kite and Amur Falcon (austral summer) are common here. Pink-billed Lark,

Melodious Lark, Secretarybird, African Grass Owl, African Marsh and Black Harriers are rarer specials while Red-footed Falcon and Yellow-breasted Pipit have been recorded on only a few occasions. Firebreaks are usually burnt along both sides of the road before the onset of the austral winter which improves roadside visibility for several months until the flush of new growth begins with the first rains.

To get to the main entrance gate at Diepkloof in the north (26.4520° S; 28.2201° E) return to the R550, turn left and continue to the signs proclaiming the reserve and turn left again. There is a second public entrance gate at Kareekloof in the west (26.5260° S; 28.1561° E) that is approached via the R557 which provides direct access into an area of **Sweet thorn savannah**. This entrance was severely damaged by fire in 2021 and at the time of writing it had not yet been reopened. Barn Owls have been recorded in the thatched roof sections of both entrance gates.

The drive to the Diepkloof visitor (administrative) centre at the base of the Suikerbosrand is through open **Plains grassland and old lands**. The few recent sightings of White-bellied Korhaan have been along the base of the low ridge to the west of this road. Northern Black Korhaan and Rufous-naped Lark are also commonly heard calling here. While the reserve is not renowned for its waterbirds, several small roadside dams have produced specials such as White-backed Duck and Lesser Moorhen. Marsh and Grass Owls breed in the marshy areas between these dams.

A walk around the Diepkloof visitor (administrative) centre can be very rewarding. This area includes a landscaped garden, a farm museum, picnic site, visitor parking area and a 700m paved path (the Toktokkie Trail) which is wheelchair accessible and suitable for visually impaired visitors. African Red-eyed Bulbul, Red-faced Mousebird, Acacia Pied, Black-collared and Crested Barbets, White-bellied Sunbird, Familiar Chat, Cape Robin-Chat, Fiscal Flycatcher, Thick-billed Weaver and Bar-throated Apalis are common here. Specials include Mocking Cliff Chat, Cape Rock Thrush, Red-throated Wryneck and Fairy Flycatcher (austral winter). The accommodation at Kippersol, Protea and Ouhout camps is closed at present.

The Cheetah and Bokmakierie hiking trails for day visitors both start at Diepkloof. For the more adventurous overnight visitor, there are also variety of longer hiking trails to explore. The trail network includes six huts that provide basic overnight accommodation for up to ten people. For birders with plenty of energy and time to spare, walking the various trails is the best way to appreciate what the reserve has to offer.

There is a 60km tarred tourist route that takes the visitor through all the various habitats. Birders may struggle to make it around the entire route in one day and, as traffic flow is mainly in one direction, it is worth reassessing progress before passing the western gate (assuming this has been reopened). A shorter 10km loop is available for those with very limited

time, but this does not traverse rocky shrubland, kloof bush or sweet thorn savannah. Be aware that these roads are also open to cyclists so do drive carefully and remember that the rules of the reserve are that you are not allowed out of your vehicle except at designated points.

From the visitor centre the road climbs steeply up the Diepkloof with a rapid transition from **Plains grassland**, through **Steep-slope grassland** into **Summit montane grassland**. Mountain Wheatear in their various colour morphs are among the most obvious species in this area. Large flocks of Red-collared Widow occur here at times and both Cape and Cinnamon-breasted Buntings frequent the road surface. Check the bulbuls carefully as both the African Red-eyed and Dark-capped Bulbuls occur here, and they may be difficult to distinguish at times. Listen for the distinctive call of the Cape Grassbird as this attractive species is otherwise easily over-looked. The patches of thicker bush in the bottom of the valley support a wide array of more typically woodland species and the stone bridge about half-way to the summit provides an excellent vantage point for scanning this habitat. Bush Blackcap was once observed from here.

At the T-junction at the top of the Diepkloof turn right to access the 10km loop or left for the main tourist route. The first approximately 2km of the main tourist route accommodates traffic in both directions and is ideal from those who plan to drive the shorter route but would nevertheless still like to visit the

high plateau. Sightings of African Rock Pipit have previously been reported from here, but not during the current survey.

The **Summit montane grassland** is home to several of Suikerbosrand's most sought after specials including Grey-winged Francolin, Sentinel Rock-Thrush (austral winter) and Yellow Bishop which are rarely encountered elsewhere in the province. Eastern Long-billed Lark, Malachite Sunbird and Cape Rock-Thrush may be quite common at times but are not always present or obvious. Mountain Wheatear, Cape Longclaw, African Stonechat, Bokmakierie, Levillant's, Wailing and Wing-snapping Cisticolas and Red-collared Widow are among the most obvious species in this habitat but are not restricted to high altitude grassland.

From the high plateau the road passes briefly through **Steep-slope grassland** and back into **Plains grassland** where Cloud, Desert and Wing-snapping Cisticolas, Eastern Clapper and Rufous-naped Larks, Ant-eating Chat, Banded Martin and variety of swifts and swallows may be found. Extremely heavy rains late in 2021 breached the wall of Sedaven Dam and this previously picturesque stopping point has been altered beyond recognition. It is too early to know what habitat will eventually establish here, but the newly formed 'sand cliffs' are a unique feature for the reserve and may attract a variety of bank nesting species in time. The road passes briefly through a patch of **Rocky shrubland** which is otherwise

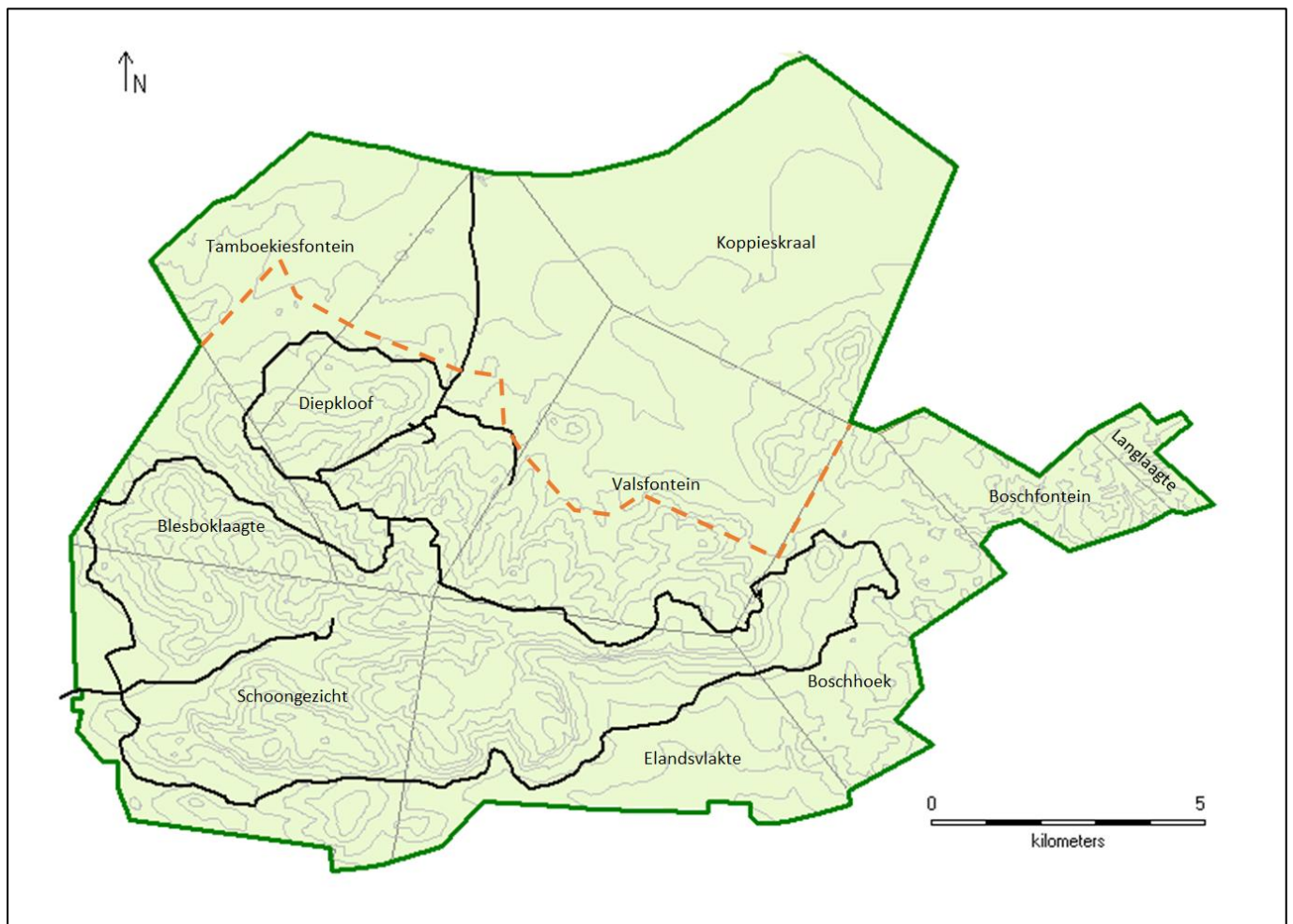


FIGURE 5. The farms of Suikerbosrand Nature Reserve. Farms and portions north of the dotted orange line constitute the northern extension. The survey by Day (1975) and most of the contributions to BIRP focussed on the original extent of the reserve. Our surveys spanned both areas, but more time was spent south of the line. Management tracks in the north may be impassable during the wet season and public access is restricted to the Eendracht Road.

inaccessible to day visitors. Hikers overnighing at Duiker and Hartebees huts will probably encounter a resident pair of Mocking Cliff Chat and could also see or hear Spotted Eagle Owl and Freckled Nightjar. African Rock Pipit was apparently reliably found in this area but has proven elusive in recent years, as has the Ground Woodpecker. Dark-capped Yellow Warbler has been recorded once.

Beyond Sedaven the road turns gradually westward following the base of Suikerbosrand to the gate at

Kareekloof (currently closed). This is an area of dramatic contrasts. The southern side of the ridge is characterised by sheer cliffs, seasonal waterfalls and steep, thickly wooded kloofs. Below the road, trees give way to grassland. This area attracts large mixed game herds throughout the year and the resultant short-grazed grassland is favoured by Ant-eating Chat, African Pipit, Cape Longclaw and Crowned Lapwing. Red-billed Oxpecker have recently been seen together with Eland in this area. The large Wetland at Elandsvlakte is good for Marsh Owl and

African Snipe but is probably best viewed from the R42 which runs along the southern boundary of the reserve. The only record of White-winged Flufftail for Gauteng comes from a specimen picked up in this area.

The tourist route passes through several patches of **Kloof bush** and it is worth stopping often to listen and scan the roadside vegetation for species such as Ashy Tit, Chinspot Batis, Kalahari Scrub Robin, Brubru, Violet-backed Starling, Cardinal and Golden-tailed Woodpeckers, Red-backed Shrike (austral summer), Common Scimitarbill, Willow Warbler (austral summer), Fairy Flycatcher (austral winter) and Cuckoo-finch. White-browed Sparrow-Weaver with their untidy straw nests and Chestnut-vented Warbler are particularly common. At certain times so too is the unmistakable call of the Red-chested Cuckoo. A pair of Verreaux's Eagle previously nested on the Bobbejaankrans where a prominent patch of whitewash is still evident. A search of the cliffs and pylons can be very rewarding as a wide variety of raptors including Peregrine Falcon, Jackal and Common Buzzards, Brown and Black-chested Snake Eagles, Booted Eagle, Martial Eagle and Cape Vulture have been seen in this area. Swallow-tailed Bee-eater, Purple-crested Turaco and Bush Blackcap are rare visitors.

The Holhoek picnic site (temporarily closed at the time of writing) on the southern side of the reserve is also located in **Kloof bush**. This is a popular stopping area especially at weekends but during the week you could get it to

yourself. It offers braais, shaded picnic tables and ablution facilities and a chance to finally get a visual on some of the species detected on call elsewhere in this habitat. There is also a patch of mature woodland just beyond the picnic site and the broad gravel shoulder of the road provides a convenient and shady spot to pull over.

After Holhoek the vegetation opens again for several kilometres offering another chance at species characteristic of **Steep-slope grassland** and **Plains grassland**. Unfortunately, the interesting patch of **Sweet thorn savannah** in the south-western corner of the reserve is often reached too late in the day to fully appreciate what it has to offer. Sabota Lark appears largely restricted to the area south of the Kareekloof gate, but a host of extremely attractive species including Violet-eared and Black-cheeked Waxbills, Long-tailed Paradise Whydah, Green-winged Pytilia, Jameson's Firefinch, Long-billed Crombec, Kalahari Scrub Robin, Chinspot Batis, Bar-throated Apalis, Rattling Cisticola and White-backed Mousebird can be found throughout this habitat. Once densely settled, stone-walled ruins may be glimpsed through encroaching vegetation on the low hills to the left of the road.

The Kareekloof resort and access road remain closed to visitors, and the extensive aloe forest on the north-facing slopes of the ridge can only be viewed from a distance. This area has produced some rare and unusual records in the past including South

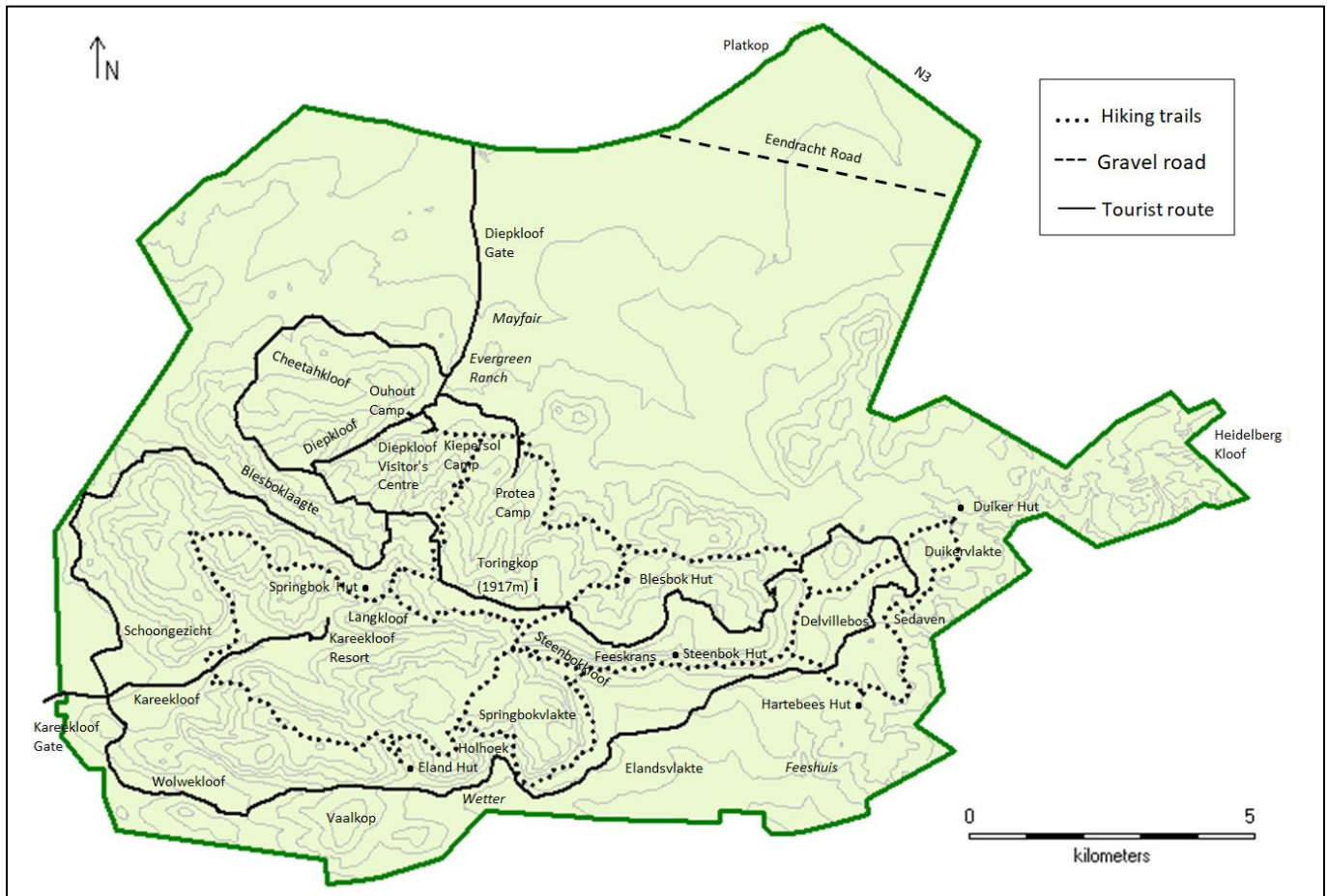


FIGURE 6. *Suikerbosrand Nature Reserve is served by an extensive network of tarred tourist roads and hiking trails. Less well-known place names are shown in italics.*

African Shelduck, Red-billed Oxpecker, Lilac-breasted Roller, Cape Eagle Owl, Pearl-spotted Owlet, Southern Bald Ibis, and even Olive Woodpecker! From the Kareekloof gate the tourist route ascends gradually back up to the high plateau. The road crosses several drainage lines, and it is worth stopping at the various culverts and stone bordered bridges along the way. The Asparagus-filled drainage line just before the Schoongezicht ranger's house regularly attracts a surprising diversity of waxbills. Namaqua Dove, White-backed Mousebird and Black-winged Kite are also often recorded here. Listen for Willow, Garden and Marsh Warblers as well as Yellow-bellied Eremomela where the road

crosses higher drainage lines with thicker bush. The long climb up the Blesboklaagte valley is particularly open and scenic. The habitat is diverse and even in the late afternoon may produce species missed elsewhere on the route. Ground Woodpecker occurred here in the past (Day 1975).

Visitors are required to return to the main gate via the short tourist loop and may not use the single direction road up the Diepkloof. Late afternoon visitors are unlikely to add many species to their days tally, but the scenery is attractive. In the early morning the **Steep-slope grassland** is good for Red-winged Francolin while Spike-heeled Lark, Ant-eating Chat and Cape Longclaw are

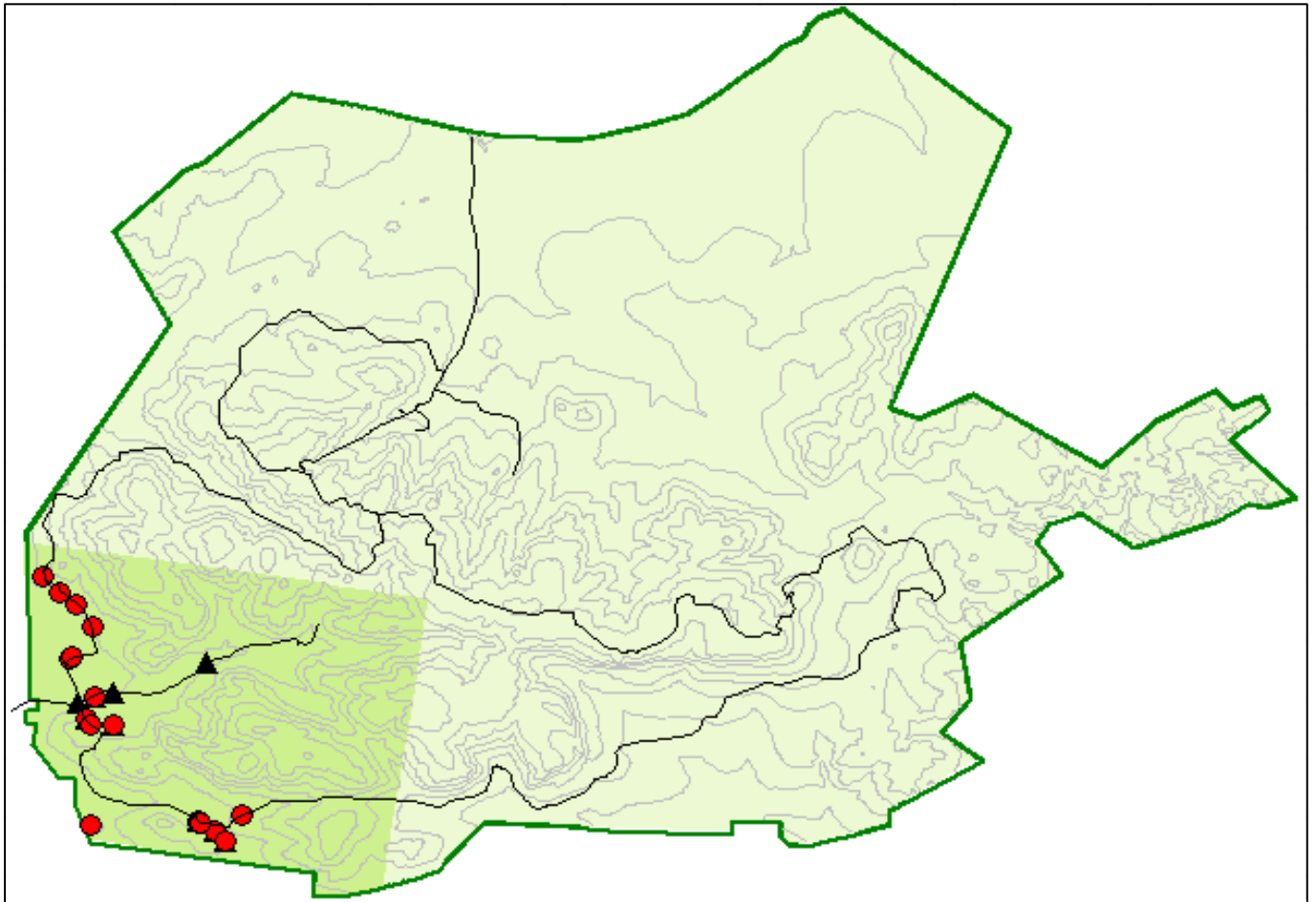


FIGURE 7. Example map for *Violet-eared Waxbill* showing the farm Schoongezicht where Day (1975) reported the species originally as a light green polygon. The most recent sightings (2018-2023) are marked with red dots and older records (mainly 2000-2017) as black triangles.

common in the **Plains grassland** lower down. Pools in the rocky stream partway along the route often hold water late into the dry season and this is a favourite afternoon drinking spot for variety of seedeaters including Pin-tailed Whydah. Hamerkop and Secretarybird have nested up the valley and a pair of Blue Crane were recorded here in 2022, a first for the reserve. Gates are open from 6am to 6pm in summer (1 October to 31 March) and 7am to 5pm in winter (1 April to 30 September) and there is small entrance fee per person and per vehicle payable by credit card.

A contact telephone number is +27 11 439 6300; summarised reserve rules are available at https://friendsofsuikerbosrand.co.za/serve_info.html

Over the years various 'where to guides' have included Suikerbosrand Nature Reserve as a regional highlight [e.g., Ryan and Isom (1990), Cohen *et al.* (2006) and Marais and Peacock (2008)]. Each offers a slightly different yet enticing perspective on how best to unlock the delights of this premier birding destination. If you are not hooked after the first visit, go again, you're not doing it right!

Species accounts

Each species account includes:

1. a **monthly occurrence bar**.
 2. **text covering** - an assessment of the status of the species within the reserve (resident, migrant, visitor or vagrant); relevant population data where this was available (e.g. estimated size, trend, groups size, etc.); evidence of breeding; details of preferred habitats; and any other relevant information or knowledge gaps.
 3. a **reporting rate** table – based on statistics which include the historical baseline (Day 1975); an intermediate assessment based on BIRP (Harebottle *et al.* 2004) and the results of the current survey.
 4. A **distribution map** showing green polygons, black triangles and red dots [where appropriate] where, as an example, **Figure 7** depicts the occurrence of Violet-eared Waxbill where, the **green polygon** indicates the farm Schoongezicht [where Day (1975) reported the species to occur], **red dots** are observations made during 2018-2022 and **black triangles** indicate sightings between these periods [for which relatively accurate locality data was available].
- Note.** Other farm locations are as depicted in **Figure 5**. Various relevant location names mentioned are as in **Figure 6**.

Acknowledgements

This document follows a template developed with Ernst Retief of BirdLife South Africa and comes some 50 years after the Witwatersrand Bird Club series “Southern Birds” on which this revision is based. We acknowledge the quality of the original survey overseen by Deryck Day. We, also, value his input to this latest publication. We are grateful to the numerous citizen scientists who contributed to SABAP2 and BIRP. We are greatly indebted to Henk Nel and his birding app, Birdlasser, which allowed us to assimilate our data digitally enabling a more efficient analysis. We are also grateful to our families who saw us going off “on holiday” at least once a month for a few days and tolerated periods of neglect during the writing phase. Our wives also provided valuable and much appreciated formatting expertise during the final phase of the project. The staff and managers of SNR are thanked for allowing access and the use of the overnight huts. We particularly acknowledge the valuable contributions of time, data, and knowledge by Daniel Koen, Rouxdene Deysel and Natalie de Beer.

Species accounts

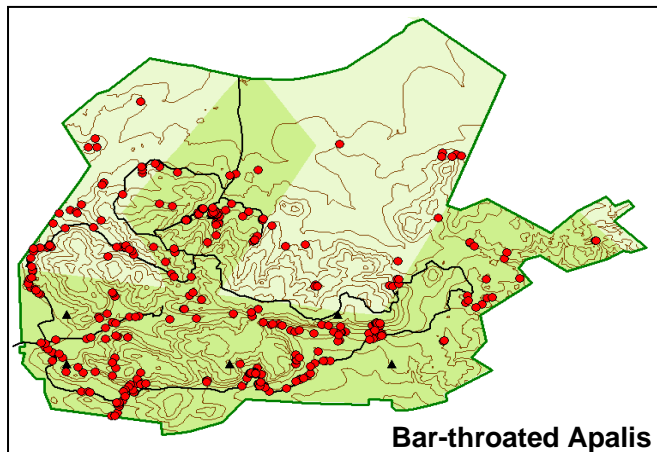
Apalis, Bar-throated

Apalis thoracica

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Resident; has bred. Widespread in wooded habitats. Readily detected on call. Forages actively in dense vegetation. Solitary or in pairs. Breeding reported for July and October to December (BIRP 2012). Thirty-six were ringed of which six were subsequently recaptured (1 day-13 months later) in the same vicinity (SAFRING).

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
86	41	58



Babbler, Arrow-marked

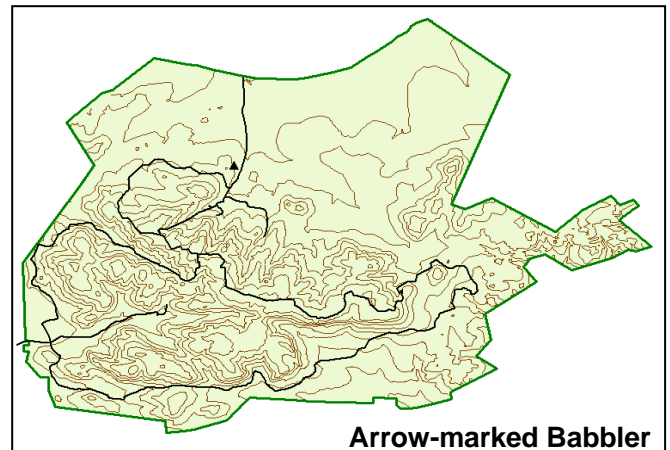
Turdoides jardineii

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Vagrant. Reported for July, October, and December during BIRP. There are thirteen records for four pentads that overlap the reserve during SABAP2, the

most recent of which was for 27 December 2022. Two were ringed on 3 June 2000 in the vicinity of Evergreen Ranch (SAFRING).

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
0	2	0



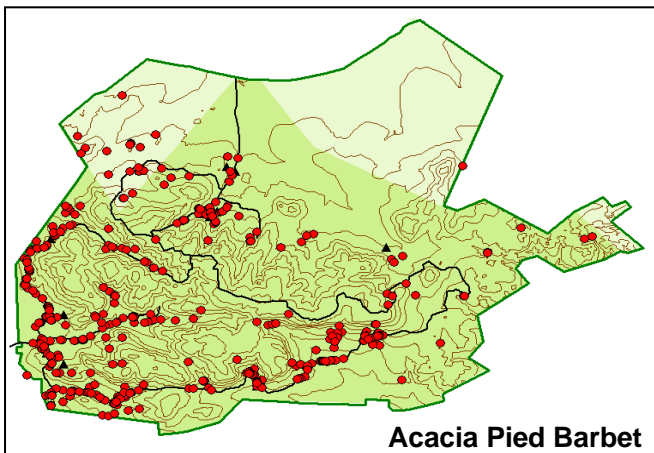
Barbet, Acacia Pied

Tricholaema leucomelas

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Resident; has bred. Widespread in wooded habitats. Solitary, occasionally in pairs. Breeding reported during October-February and in July (BIRP 2012). Seven of 55 individuals ringed in the Kareekloof area were subsequently re-trapped (3-17 months later) in the same vicinity (SAFRING).

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
92	68	92*



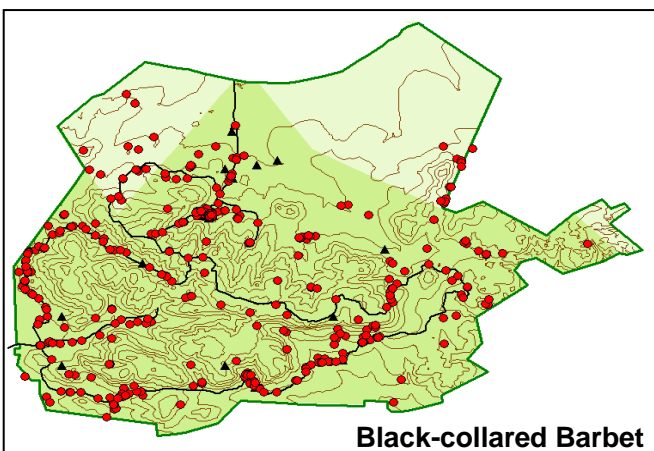
Acacia Pied Barbet

Barbet, Black-collared
Lybius torquatus

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Resident; has bred. Widespread in wooded habitats. Solitary, in pairs or small groups. Breeding recorded in October-March and July (BIRP 2012). Seven of over 50 ringed at various localities were subsequently re-trapped (1-4 months later), all in the same vicinity (SAFRING).

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
97	83	98*



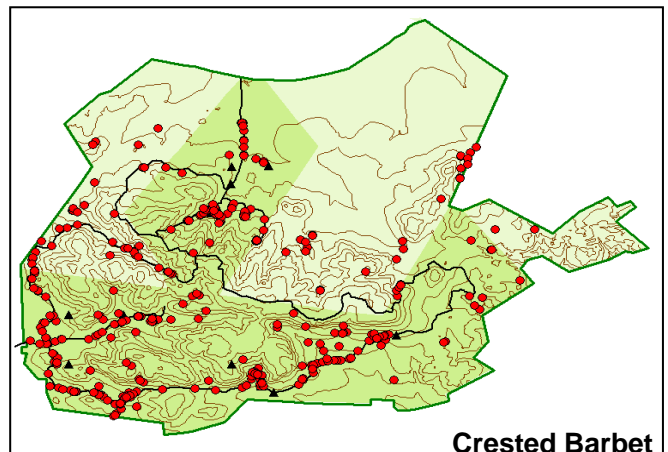
Black-collared Barbet

Barbet, Crested
Trachyphonus vaillantii

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Resident; has bred. Widespread in wooded habitats. Usually solitary, rarely in pairs. Breeding reported in October-December, February and July (BIRP 2012). One of 40 birds ringed was subsequently recaptured (9 months later) where it was originally trapped (SAFRING).

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
95	78	62*



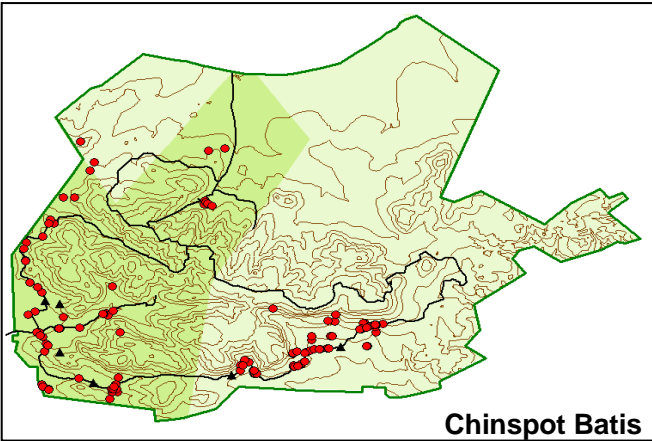
Crested Barbet

Batis, Chinspot
Batis molitor

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Resident. Mainly found in kloof bush and sweet thorn savannah in the south and west. Day (1975) reported only three sightings. Solitary and in pairs. Two were ringed (SAFRING).

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
62	10	2



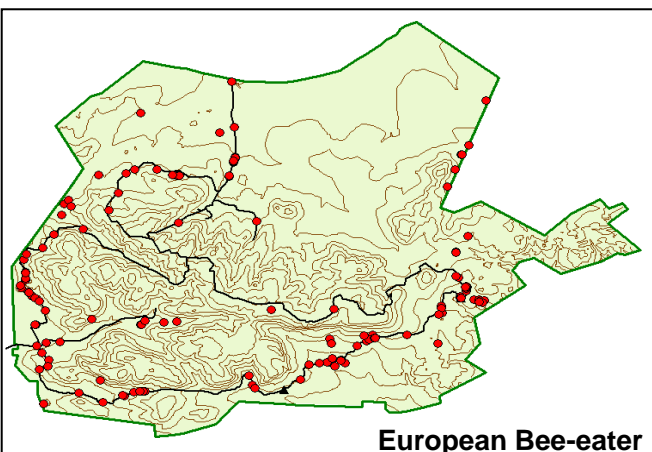
Bee-eater, European

Merops apiaster

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Palaearctic migrant. Mostly seen and heard aerially but occasionally perched on trees and wires in groups (≤ 40). First recorded by CWJ on 14 December 2012.

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
42	0	0



Bee-eater, Little

Merops pusillus

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Vagrant. Seen on a fence in grassland near the Diepkloof gate by H. Nel on 27 October 2019.

[No map]

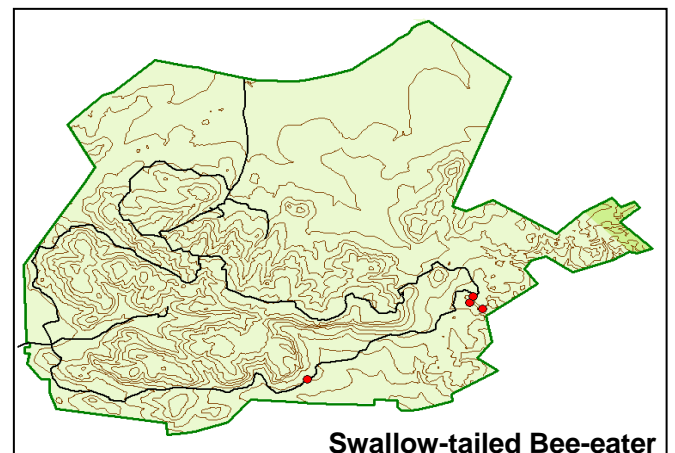
Bee-eater, Swallow-tailed

Merops hirundineus

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Vagrant. Day (1975) noted five at Heidelberg Kloof on 12 September 1970. Individuals were subsequently recorded in kloof bush near Holhoek on 19 July 2018, in the kloof below Sedaven Dam on 17 May 2021, adjacent to the dam on 11 June 2021 and most recently at Wolwekloof on 1 June 2023.

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
4	0	2*

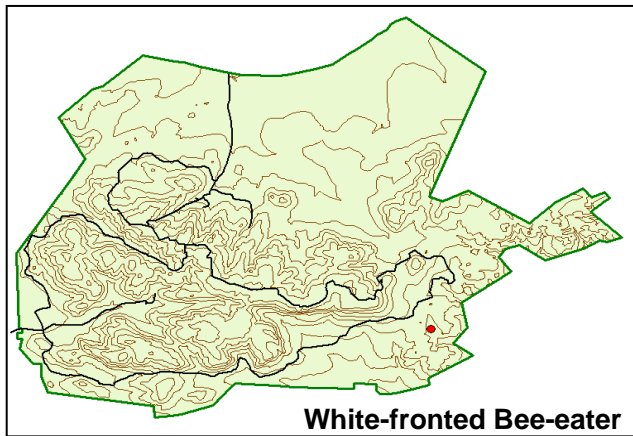


Bee-eater, White-fronted
Merops bullockoides

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
█			█			█					

Vagrant. First recorded on 24 January 2008 by reserve staff. Subsequently on 6 July 2012, 18 January 2013, 23 April 2019 and most recently on 2 November 2023; an individual in rocky shrubland near Sedaven Dam. Breaching of the dam wall in 2021 has created potentially suitable nesting habitat for this species.

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
1	0	0



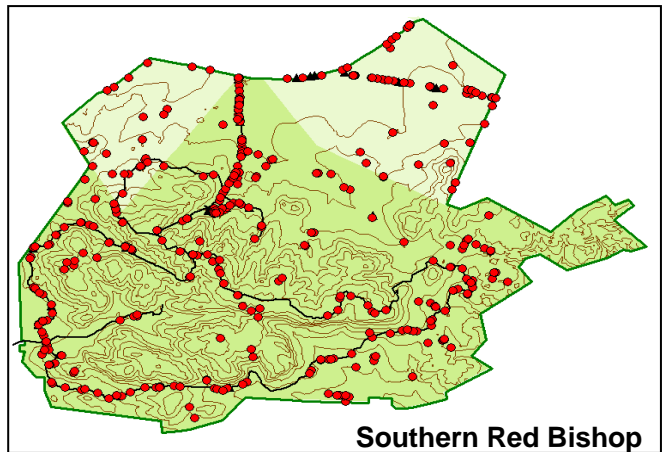
Bishop, Southern Red
Euplectes orix

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█

Breeding resident. Absent from kloof bush but otherwise found throughout the reserve. Potentially overlooked during the non-breeding season when males lose their bright red plumage. Solitary, in small flocks (≤ 50) and occasionally 100 or more. Nest building was observed during December-

February and breeding was also reported for October and November during BIRP. Movements suspected, 184 were ringed but none were recaptured despite a multi-year trapping effort (SAFRING).

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
97	58	52*

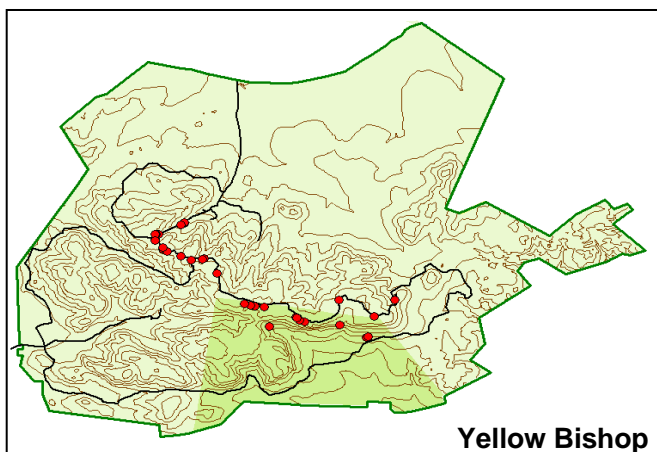


Bishop, Yellow [Cape]
Euplectes capensis

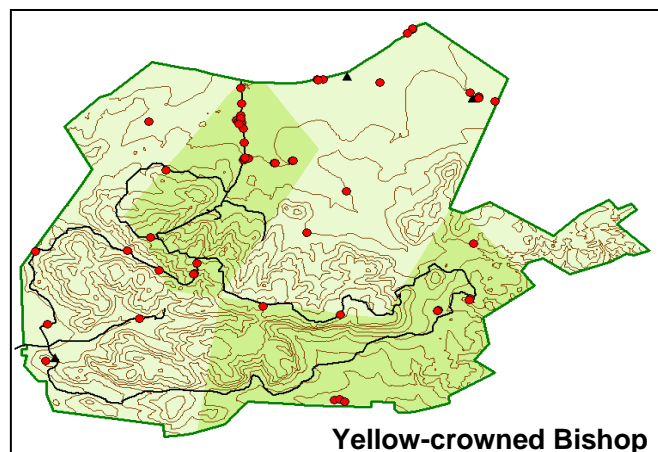
J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█

Resident. Recorded erratically but less conspicuous during non-breeding season and possibly merely overlooked. Appears largely restricted to summit montane grassland but occasionally found on fringes of southern kloofs as noted by Day (1975). Solitary or in pairs with one record of three together.

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
28	56	18*



Yellow Bishop



Yellow-crowned Bishop

Bishop, Yellow-crowned
Euplectes afer

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Probable resident. Recorded throughout the year but not in all months; has bred. Probably overlooked outside of breeding season when males stop displaying and moult thereby losing their distinctive 'bumble bee' appearance. Seen most often in low-lying plains grassland, old lands and wetlands on the northern extension but also noted rarely in grassy areas within the sweet thorn savannah and elsewhere within the reserve. Solitary, in pairs and small flocks (≤ 20). Sometimes in mixed flocks with other seedeaters. Breeding reported in January and February during BIRP.

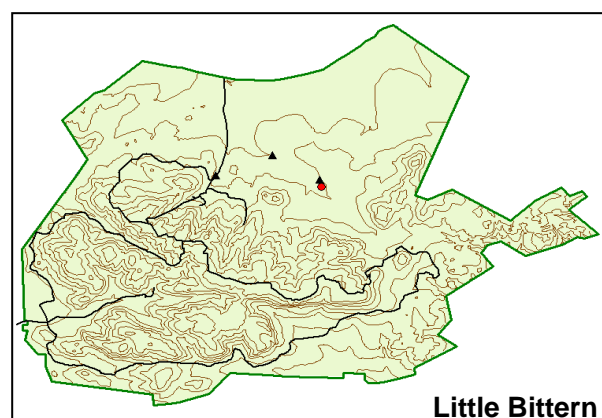
REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
26	24	18*

Bittern, Little
Ixobrychus minutus

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Vagrant. Restricted to dams with extensive reed beds. First recorded by CWJ on 18 March 2011 with subsequent sightings of individuals on 19 June 2015, 28 July 2015, 3 February 2016, and 19 May 2022.

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
1	0	0



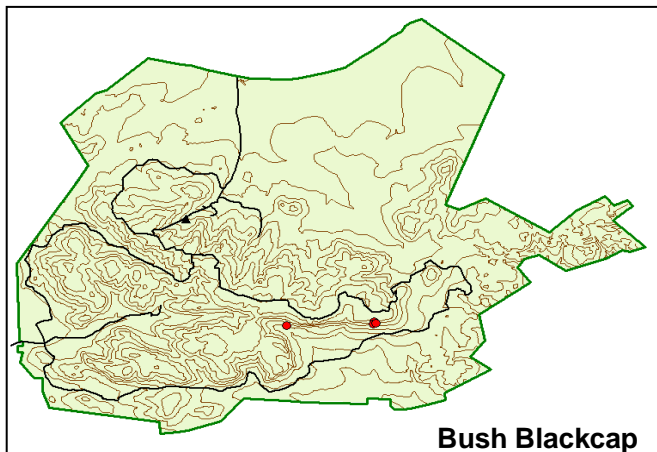
Little Bittern

Blackcap, Bush
Sylvia nigricapillus VU, VU

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Vagrant. Likely under-recorded. First observed by H. Nel on 1 August 2015 in a wooded drainage line in the Diepkloof. Our records are for a woodland patch just below the ridge crest east of Steenbok hut on 19 and 30 November 2021. Most recently reported by M. Johnson in woodland west of Steenbok hut on 14 November 2022.

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
3	0	0



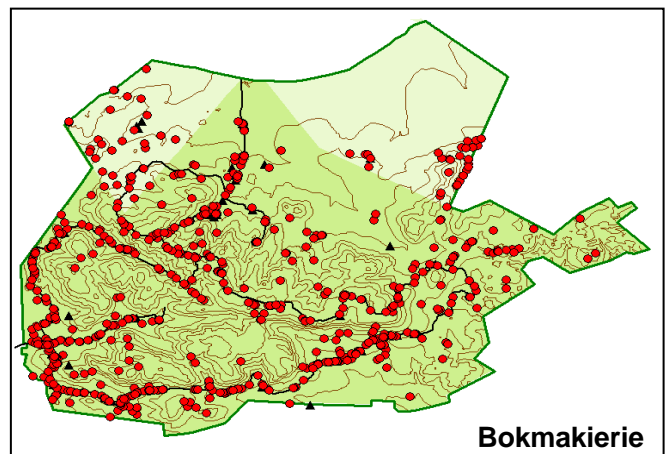
Bokmakierie
Telophorus zeylonus

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Breeding resident. Widespread, found in all habitats but less frequently in the low-lying plains grassland and old lands on the northern extension. Usually solitary, sometimes in pairs, rarely groups (≤ 5). Adults with young were recorded on 15 November 2022 and

Day (1975) recorded breeding in May and October. An individual presumably ringed outside the reserve was recaptured at Kareekloof. Seventeen were ringed within the reserve of which two were subsequently recaptured (1 day-7 years later) within 2km of where they were originally caught (SAFRING).

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
97	93	94*

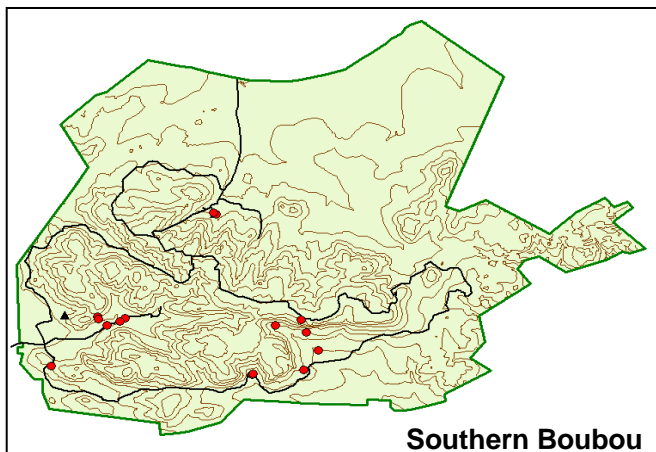


Boubou, Southern
Laniarius ferrugineus

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Possible resident. Locally elusive and the few records, mainly for kloof bush, are all based on calls. One was ringed in the Kareekloof on 9 September 2007 (SAFRING).

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
16	10	0



Bulbul, African Red-eyed
Pycnonotus nigricans

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Breeding resident. Widespread, found in all habitats except plains grassland and old lands. Usually more common than Dark-capped Bulbuls, the ranges of these species overlap and there was no area where we would have expected to find one but not the other. As they are difficult to separate except under excellent light conditions both may have been under recorded. Individuals with a red eye but lacking a red eye ring may be hybrids. A leucistic individual was recorded in the Kareekloof on 8 July 2022. Solitary or in small groups, but up to 16 recorded in a single tree. Often seen in large numbers by Day (1975). Breeding activity including carrying nesting material and juveniles were recorded in January and February. Day (1975) observed breeding in November. Approximately 350 were ringed of which nine were recaptured (1 day-6 years later) in the same vicinity. One ringed on 26 October 1999 in the Elandsvlakte area was recaptured about 12 months later near Kareekloof, at distance of about 10km (SAFRING).

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
96	93	92*

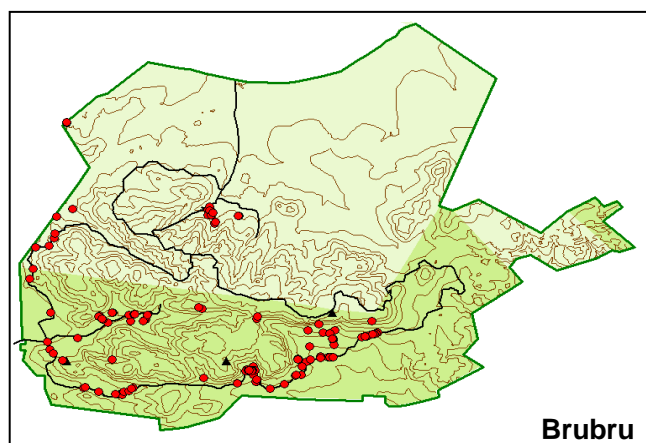
Brubru

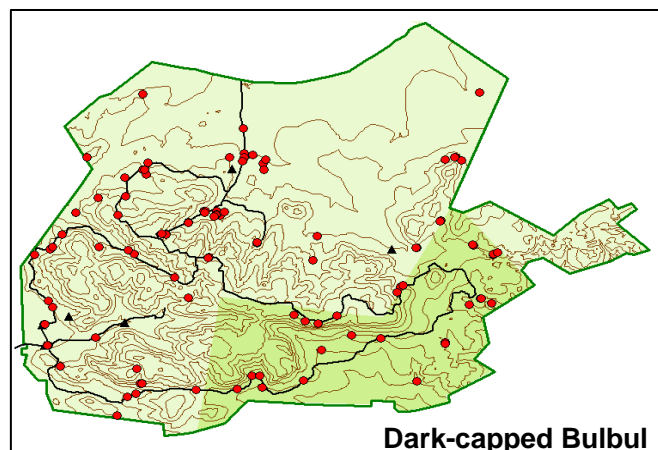
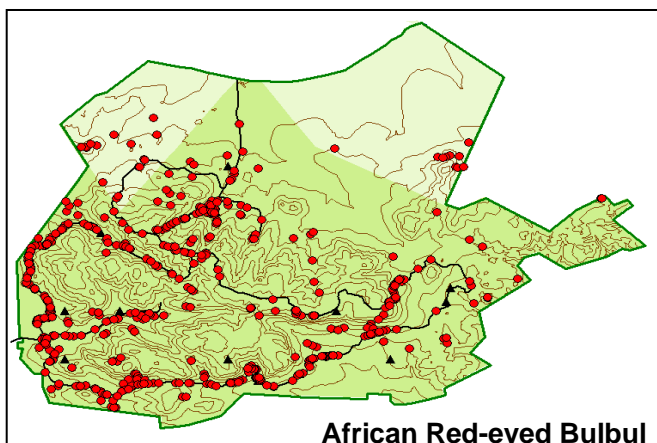
Nilaus afer

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Resident. Found mainly in sweet thorn savannah and kloof bush. Usually solitary, rarely in pairs. Three were ringed at scattered localities (SAFRING).

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
53	31	34*





Bulbul, Dark-capped
Pycnonotus tricolor

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Breeding resident. Widespread but rare in open grassland. As they are difficult to separate from the much more common African Red-eyed Bulbuls except under excellent light conditions they may have been under recorded. Day (1975) recorded Red-eyed Bulbul as a breeding resident and discounted Dark-capped records as possibly being juvenile African Red-eyed Bulbuls that were incorrectly identified. Eight individuals have since been captured and ringed mainly in the Kareekloof area but also near Evergreen Ranch (SAFRING). Usually solitary but also in small groups (≤ 4). We noted a juvenile on 10 December 2021.

Bulbul, Hybrid Red-eyed / Dark-capped
Pycnonotus tricolor x nigricans

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Hybrids between Dark-capped and African Red-eyed Bulbuls may exhibit variations in eye colour and the colour and width of the eye ring. A suspected hybrid with a red eye but no obvious eye ring was recorded on 17 March 2022. Other specimens with atypical colouration of the eye and/or eye-ring were dismissed as juveniles, but this may not be correct.

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
1	0	0

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
66	11	0

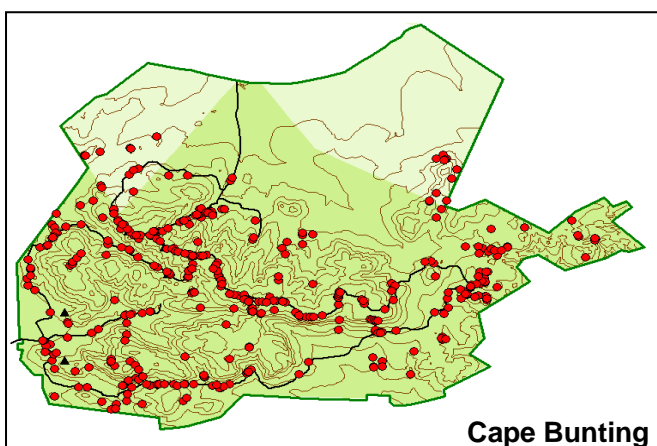
Bunting, Cape
Emberiza capensis

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Resident. Widespread, found in all habitats but absent from plains grassland and old lands on the northern extension. This is the commonest of the three bunting species that are found

here. Solitary or in pairs, occasionally three together. Twenty were ringed (SAFRING).

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
86	84	84*

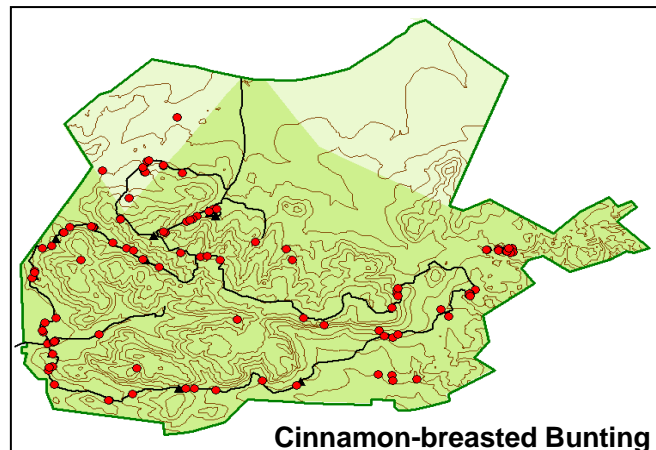


Bunting, Cinnamon-breasted
Emberiza tahapisi

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Visitor; has bred. Recorded in all months but predominately during November to April (77% of our observations) suggesting an exodus during the dry season. Day (1975) also noted an apparent absence during winter. Widespread and found in all habitats but rarely recorded on the northern extension. Usually solitary or in pairs but up to four together. Day (1975) reported breeding. Twenty-one were ringed of which one, initially trapped in the Kareekloof area, was recaptured twice over consecutive days (5 years later) where it was ringed (SAFRING).

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
36	37	62*

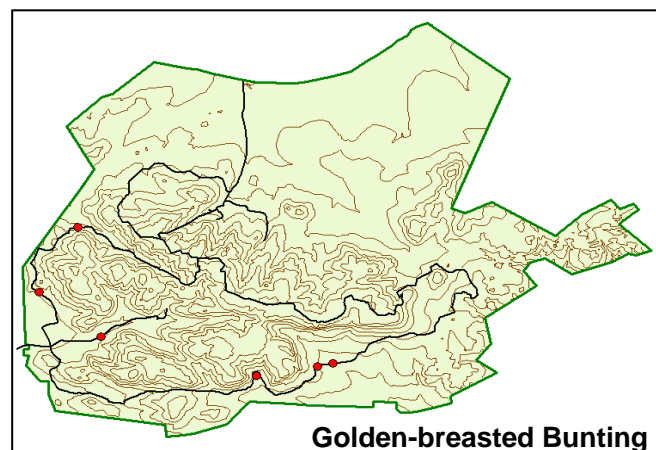


Bunting, Golden-breasted
Emberiza flaviventris

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Visitor but recorded for most months. We only saw individuals a few occasions, mainly in kloof bush and sweet thorn savannah.

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
8	3	0



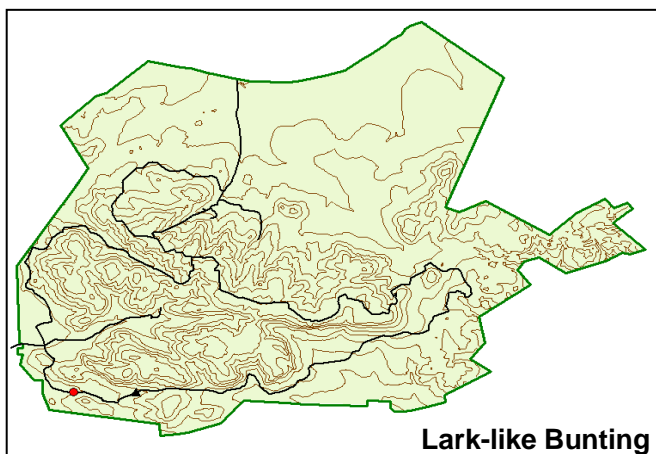
Bunting, Lark-like

Emberiza impetواني

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Vagrant. First recorded by C. Cottino on 4 October 2003, a single bird in the Vaalkop area. Subsequently seen in March, May, and November (BIRP 2012) and most recently on 17 May 2021 in thornveld at Wolwekloof and on 1 June 2023 in the vicinity of Steenbokkloof, both single birds. The last sighting was one of many reported for the province during 2023.

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
1	1	0



Buttonquail, Common (Kurrichane)

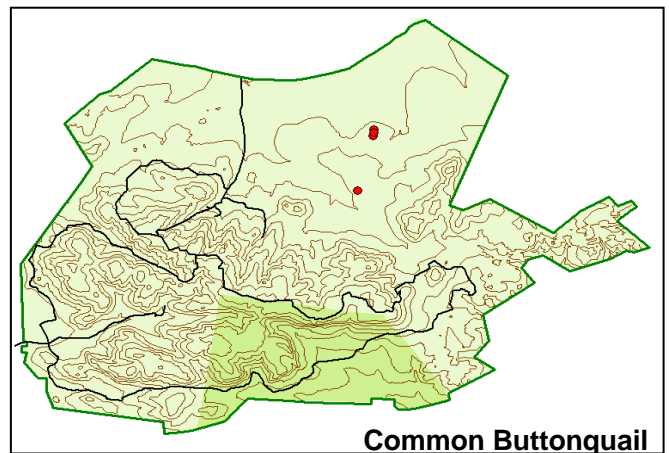
Turnix sylvaticus

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Vagrant. Recorded by CWJ on 2 October 2019 and 28 July 2021 in the grasslands and old lands on the northern extension. Found in the low-lying grasslands around Elandsvlakte in December 1970 and many seen in the

same area during September to November 1973 (Day 1975). The record of a specimen supposedly ringed at Elandsvlakte on 15 August 1973 (SAFRING) may be erroneous given the diversity of other rarities claimed to have been captured on the same day.

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
3	0	2



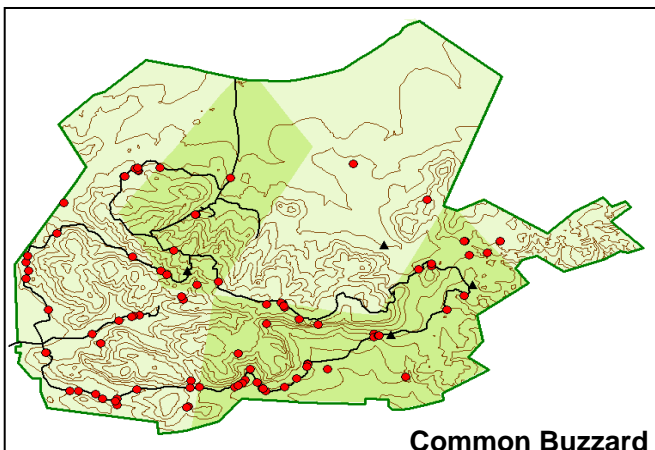
Buzzard, Common (Steppe)

Buteo buteo

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Palaearctic migrant. Records for April-September during BIRP may be misidentified juvenile Jackal Buzzard-these records were excluded. Widespread and found over all habitats but rarely over the plains grassland and old lands of the northern extension. Three were ringed (SAFRING).

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
32	19	18*



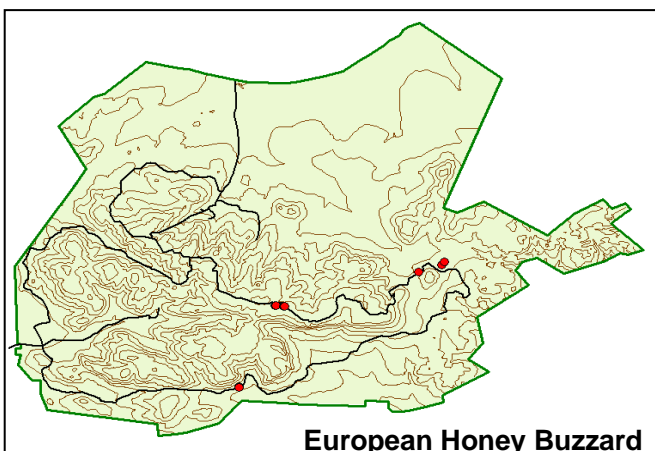
Common Buzzard

Buzzard, European Honey
Pernis apivorus

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Palearctic migrant. Our first records were of individuals on consecutive days in January 2019 at the same locale over summit montane grassland. Individuals were subsequently seen on 21 February 2021, 26 April 2021 and 17 March 2022.

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
5	0	0



European Honey Buzzard

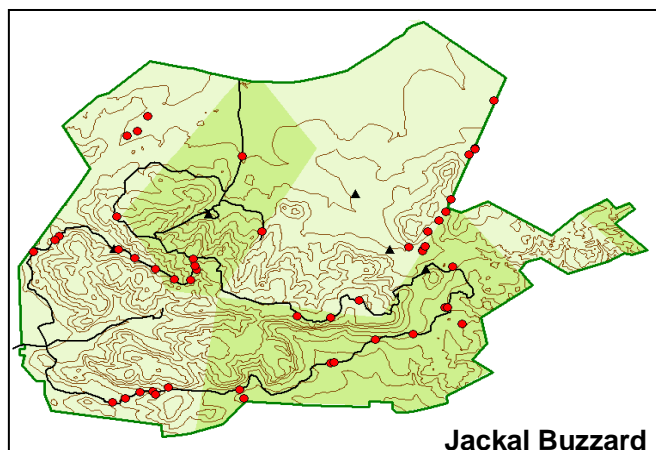
Buzzard, Jackal

Buteo rufofuscus

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Visitor. Recorded throughout the year but no evidence of breeding. Widespread, though rarely seen over woodland. Day (1975) reported widely scattered sightings of individuals but not the number of records. Two were ringed (SAFRING).

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
26	19	?



Jackal Buzzard

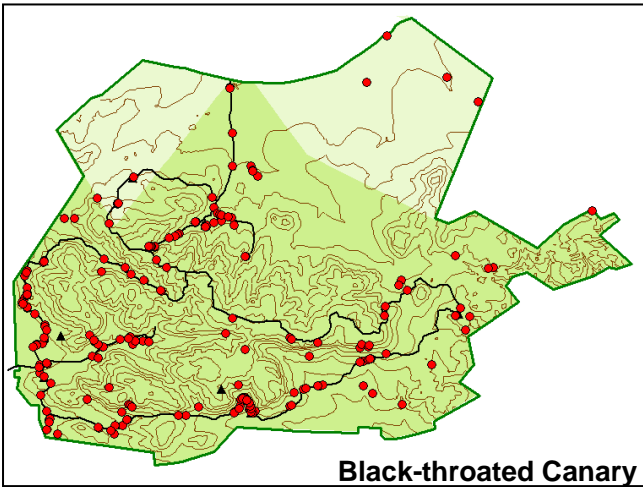
Canary, Black-throated

Crithagra atrogularis

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Breeding resident. Widespread but most common in kloof bush and sweet thorn savannah. Solitary and in small groups, rarely in larger flocks (20-30). Parents were seen with young in March 2021. Twenty-two were ringed (SAFRING).

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
76	49	86*



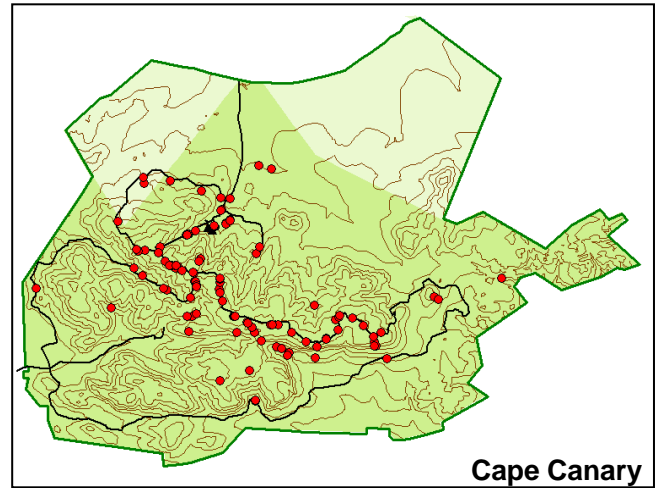
Canary, Cape

Serinus canicollis

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Resident; has bred. Typically found in small groups. One of 50 considered exceptional now, but apparently not in the past (Day 1975). Recorded predominantly in the higher lying steep-slope and summit montane grasslands, only occasionally in kloof bush. A change from Day (1975) who mainly found the species in wooded areas, especially kloof bush. Breeding was reported during December-February (Day 1975, BIRP). Two were ringed (SAFRING).

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
43	34	64*



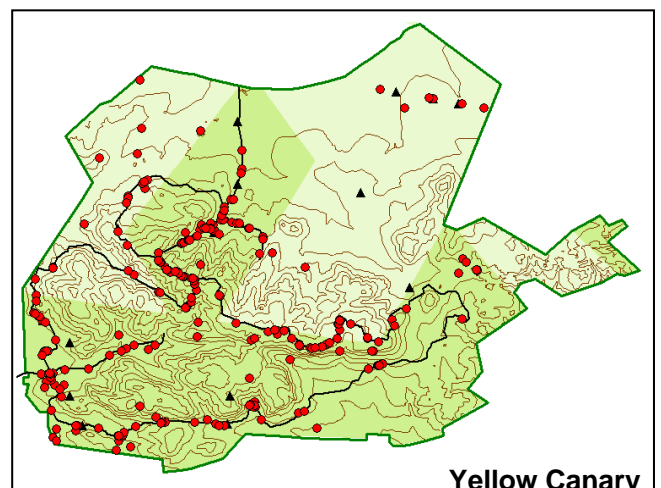
Canary, Yellow

Crithagra flaviventris

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Breeding resident. Widespread, found in all habitats except rocky shrubland, previously mainly in kloof bush (Day 1975). Solitary, in pairs or small flocks (≤ 10). Several apparently discrete flocks sometimes recorded close together. Juvenile birds were observed on 8 December 2022. Thirty-four were ringed (SAFRING).

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
93	47	36*



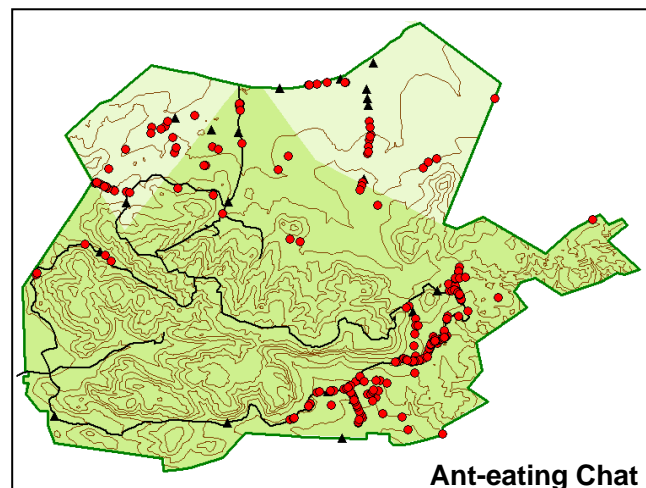
Canary, Yellow-fronted
Crithagra mozambica

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Visitor. Recorded in all months, but occurrence erratic; has bred. Seen only a few times mainly along drainage lines in steep-slope grassland. Solitary and in pairs. Day (1975) reported widely scattered sightings of small groups. Breeding was reported for March during BIRP. One was ringed on 5 September 2004 in the vicinity of Holhoek (SAFRING), an area for which we have no other records.

groups (3-5). Breeding was recorded by Day (1975).

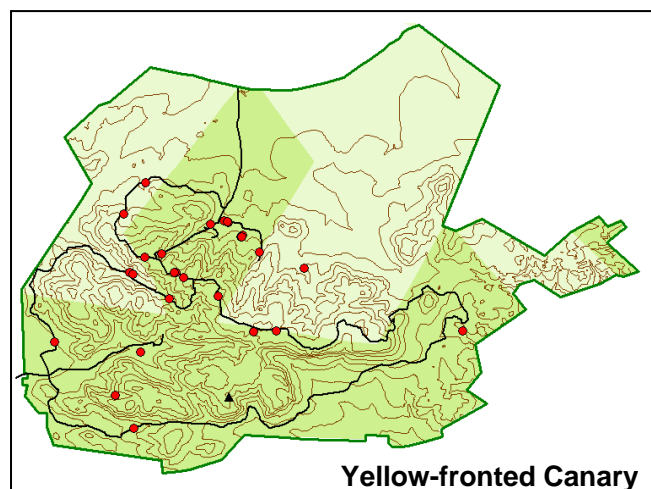
REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
76	95	52



REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
9	16	24*

Chat, Familiar
Cercomela familiaris

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D



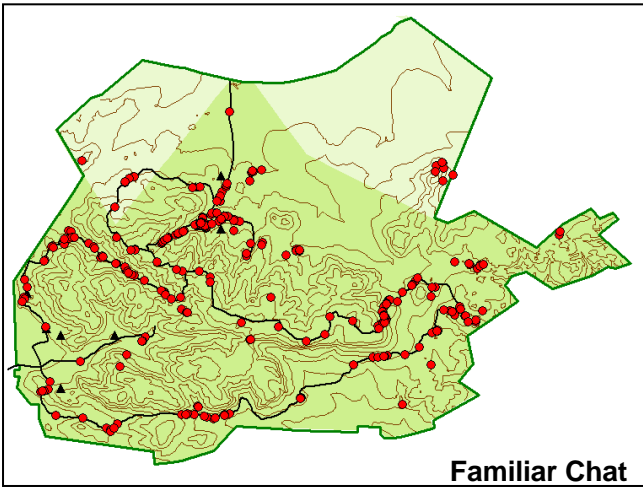
Resident; has bred. Possibly more commonly seen in winter (53% of our sightings were during May-August). Widespread, found in diverse habitats but rarely in plains grassland and old lands and only on the periphery of kloof bush. Solitary or in pairs, occasionally three together. Breeding was reported for January during BIRP. Twelve were ringed and one was recaptured (2 months later) where it was first trapped (SAFRING).

Chat, Ant-eating
Myrmecocichla formicivora

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
78	86	32*

Resident; has bred. Found mainly in the low-lying grasslands throughout the reserve and the northern extension. Solitary or in pairs, occasionally in small



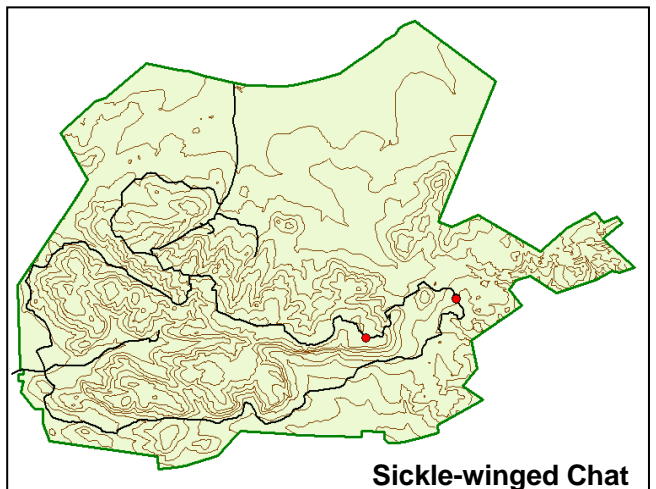
Chat, Sickle-winged

Cercomela sinuata

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Vagrant. Sightings were occasionally reported on social media platforms. Our observations were of individuals in plains grassland on 26 April 2021 and summit montane grassland on 17 May 2021.

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
3	0	0



Chat, Mocking Cliff

Thamnolaea cinnamomeiventris

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Resident; has bred. Widespread, found mainly in steep-slope grassland, rocky shrubland and kloof bush especially where small cliff faces are evident. A resident of all the overnight hiking trail huts. Solitary, in pairs and small groups (≤ 4). S. Wolff recorded breeding during October-November (Day 1975). Nine were ringed (SAFRING).

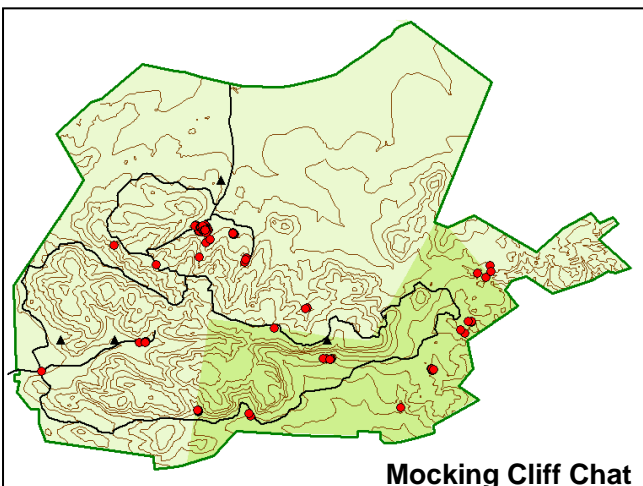
REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
58	58	48*

Cisticola, Cloud

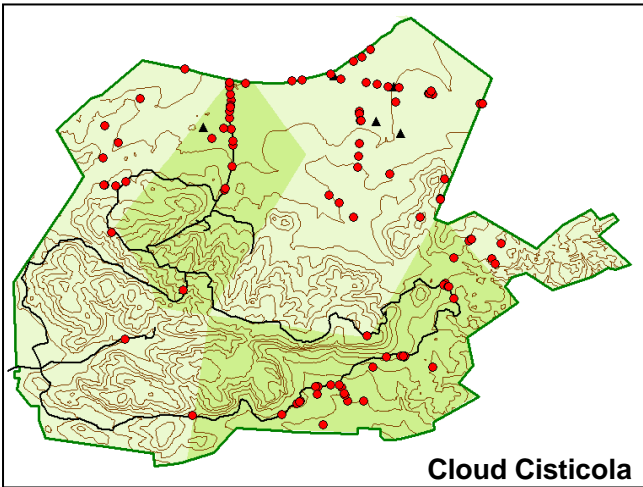
Cisticola textrix

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Resident; probably breeds. Widespread, found mainly in steep-slope grassland, and plains grassland and old lands. In contrast, Day (1975) reported a preference for montane grasslands. No nests were located but display calls were commonly heard.



REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
53	26	20



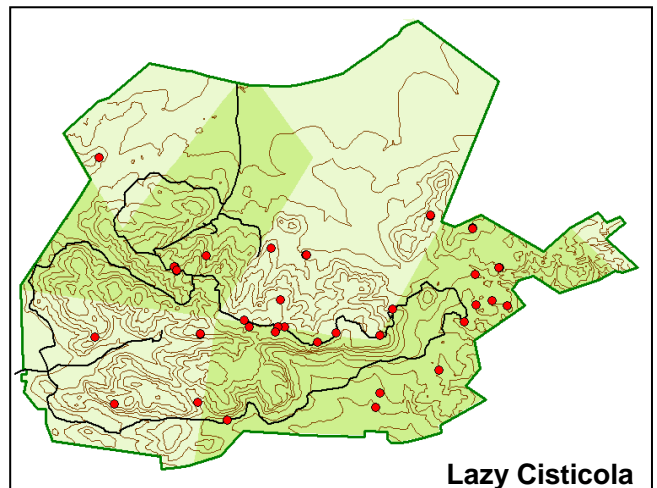
Cisticola, Lazy

Cisticola aberrans

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Resident. Widespread but absent from most of the northern extension. Mainly found in steep-slope and summit montane grasslands and rocky shrubland. Usually solitary, also in pairs and rarely in groups (≤ 4). Parents and young seen together on 2 December 2022.

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
30	12	20*



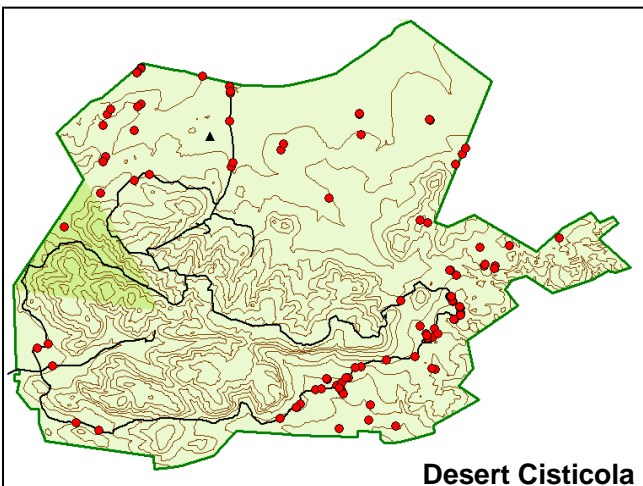
Cisticola, Desert

Cisticola aridulus

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Probable resident. Widespread at lower altitudes, absent from kloof bush and summit montane grassland. Usually located on call. Often solitary but occasionally two were heard in same area.

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
36	13	10



Cisticola, Levillant's

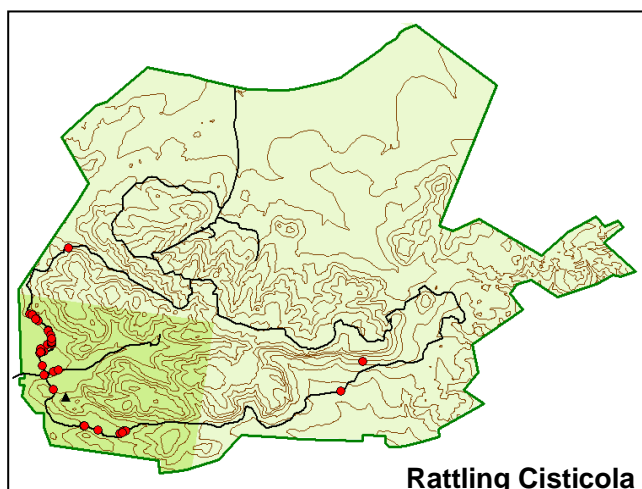
Cisticola tinniens

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Breeding resident. Reliably identifiable in all months of the year. Widespread, found in all habitats except kloof bush. In contrast to Day (1975) who noted an attachment to water we found little or no connection to wetland habitats – tall grassland would appear to be preferred

as it is even seen in tall, *Hyparrhenia dregeana* and *Cymbopogon validus* (turpentine grass) grasses along the ridge summits. Often solitary or in small groups (≤ 9). An adult was seen carrying nesting material on 13 February 2019 and adults were seen with young on 26 May 2021 and 8 December 2022. S. Wolff also recorded breeding during December (Day 1975). Four were ringed (SAFRING).

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
29	4	4



Cisticola, Wailing

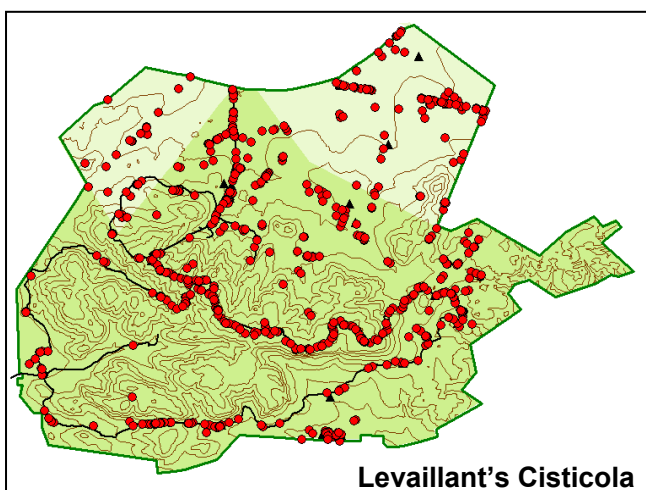
Cisticola lais

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Breeding resident. Widespread, heard from most habitats. Call more truncated than typically described for this species. Occurs mainly in rocky parts of steep-slope and summit montane grassland. Absent from kloof bush and rare in plains grassland and old lands. Solitary or in pairs, occasionally in small groups (≤ 4). An adult was seen carrying nesting material on 19 November 2021 and 19 October 2022. One was ringed in the Kareekloof area on the 15 July 2000 (SAFRING).

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
89	51	60*

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
100	79	58*

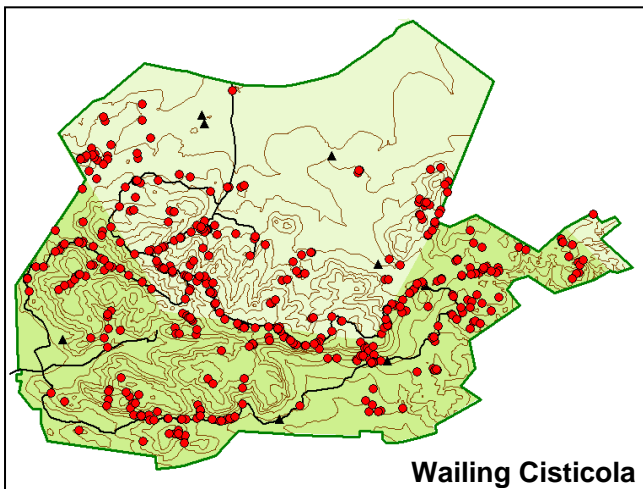


Cisticola, Rattling

Cisticola chiniana

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Resident. Occurs mainly in sweet thorn savannah, rarely elsewhere. Invariably detected on call. Usually solitary, occasionally two together. Recorded twice by Day (1975) in the same general area and eight times during BIRP. Three were ringed in the aloe forest in the Kareekloof (SAFRING).

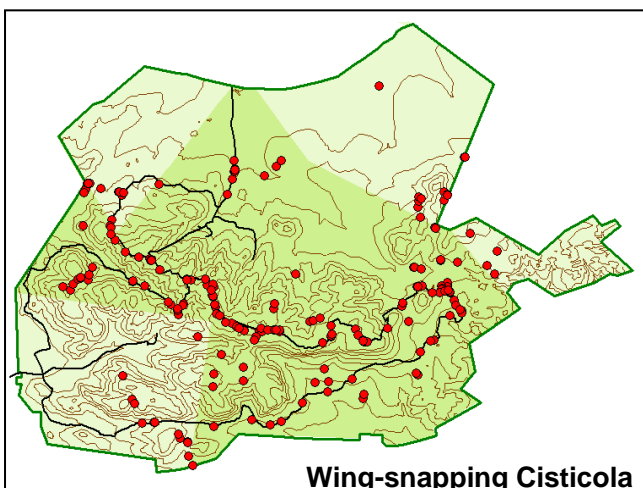


Cisticola, Wing-snapping
Cisticola ayresii

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Resident; possibly breeds. While also recorded in the low-lying extension grasslands it was most frequently seen and heard at higher altitudes especially in the summit montane grassland. In contrast, Day (1975) noted a preference for low-lying grassland. Almost invariably first detected on call. Solitary but up to three together.

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
51	31	14

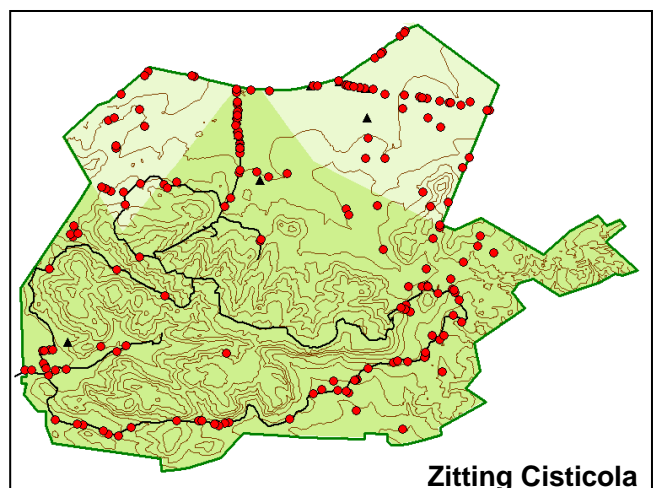


Cisticola, Zitting
Cisticola juncidis

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Probable resident; has bred. Widespread, found mainly in plains grassland and old lands but also in sweet thorn savannah. Almost certainly present throughout the year but individual species identification of the small cisticolas is fraught with difficulties when not displaying or vocalising. Solitary or in pairs. S. Wolff reported breeding in January 1974 (Day 1975). Two were ringed in the Kareekloof/Schoongezicht area on 19 February 2000 (SAFRING).

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
47	36	34*



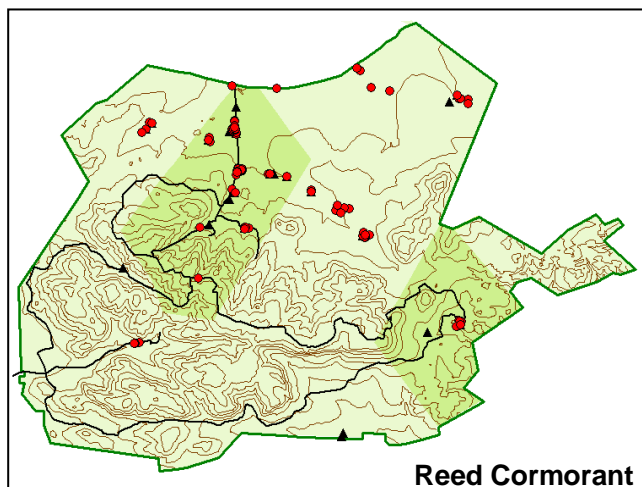
Coot, Red-knobbed
Fulica cristata

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Breeding resident. Widespread but restricted to dams, most of which are on

the northern extension. Rarely seen at Sedaven Dam even before the wall was breached. Solitary, in pairs or in small groups (≤ 40). Up to 164 counted during CWAC. Breeding recorded in most months. S. Wolff reported breeding at Evergreen Ranch in April and Day (1975) considered the species to be a summer visitor and only present in low numbers.

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
54	43	60*

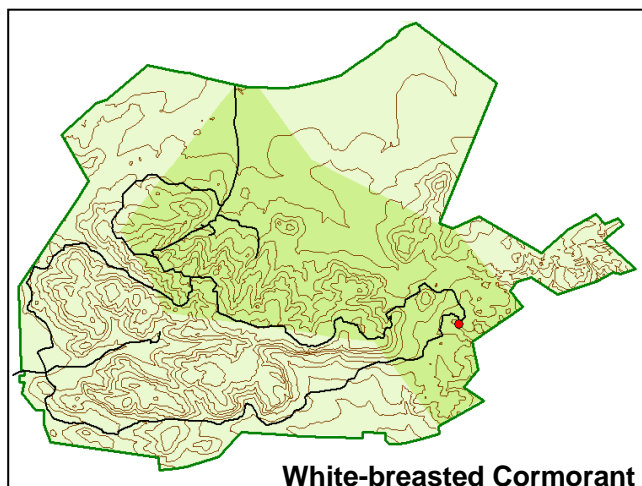


Cormorant, White-breasted
Phalacrocorax lucidus

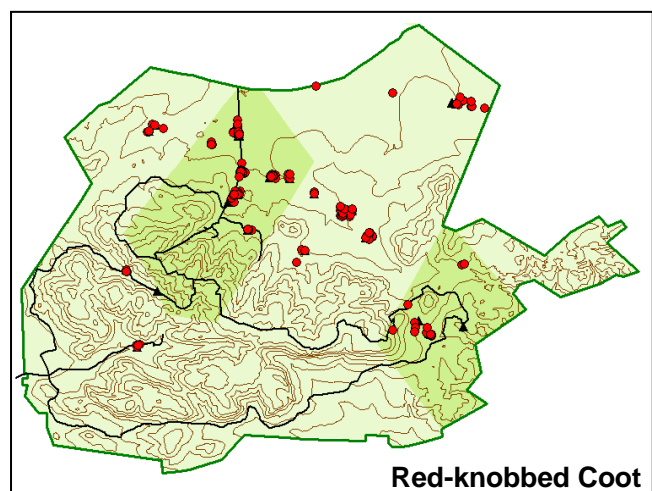
J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Vagrant. Not recorded during CWAC. Our sighting of an individual at Sedaven Dam on 30 November 2021 is the only recent record. Day (1975) reported three sightings.

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
1	4	10*



REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
95	83	40*



Cormorant, Reed
Microcarbo africanus

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Resident; has bred. Widespread but restricted to dams, most of which are on the northern extension. Up to 16 recorded during CWAC. Day (1975) reported breeding at Evergreen Ranch in January, March, November, and December. Juveniles have been observed in all months, but we are not aware of any recent breeding attempt.

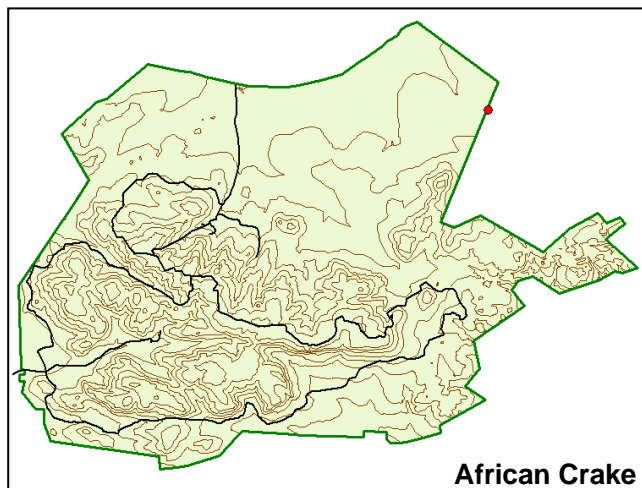
Coucal, Burchell's

Centropus burchelli

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Erratic visitor. Recorded throughout the year but not in all months. Our sightings were both in reed beds. Day (1975) recorded the species just east of the reserve at Sedaven in June and September. One was ringed in the Kareekloof area on 14 August 2014 (SAFRING).

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
1	0	0



Crake, Black

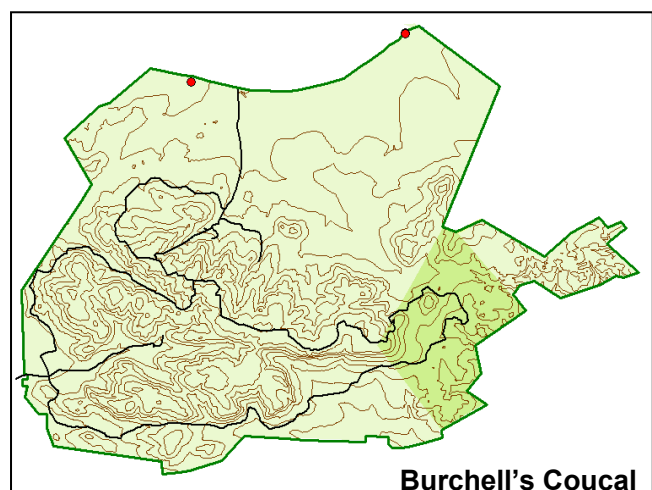
Amaurornis flavirostra

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Breeding resident. Recorded mainly from the drainage lines and reed beds in the low-lying grasslands of the northern extension with just a single record for Elandsvlakte in the original reserve. Readily detected on call and often forages in open. Solitary, in pairs and small groups (≤ 7). A pair bred at a roadside dam south of the Diepkloof gate in April 2021 close to where the species was first recorded by S. Wolff in January 1975 (Day 1975). The incorporation of the extension has greatly increased the extent of suitable habitat under protection.

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
46	4	0

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
1	5	0

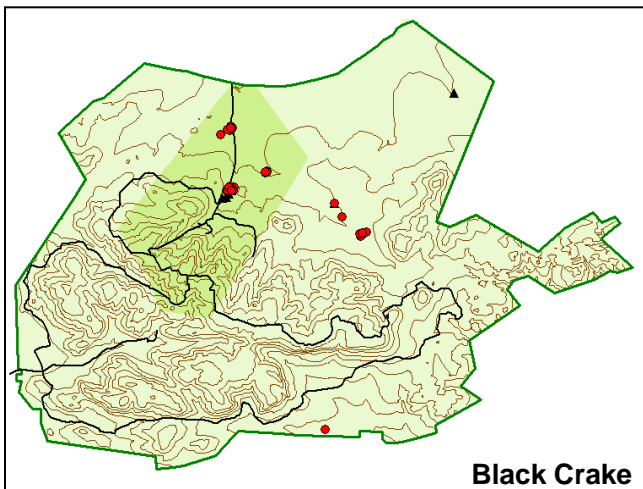


Crake, African

Crex egregia

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Vagrant. A single bird was flushed from a management track through tall grassland on the north-eastern boundary of the northern extension on 9 March 2021.



Black Crane

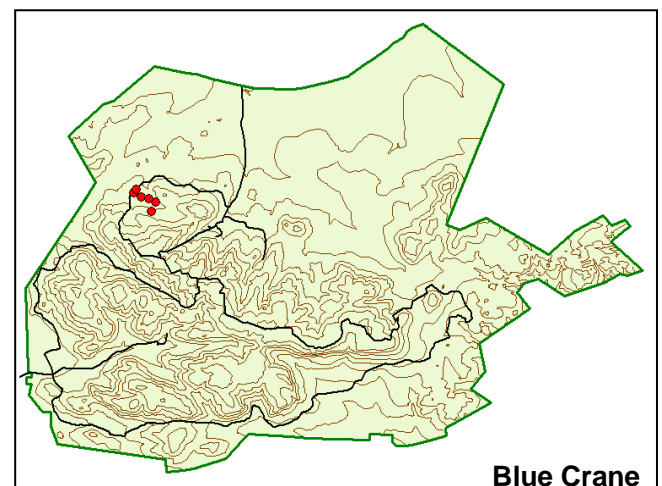
Crane, Blue

Grus paradisea

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Visitor; may breed in future. A pair was recorded in the Cheetahkloof on 15 November 2022 by D. Koen and CWJ and was still present in the same area on 25 January 2023. If they attempted to breed, they were not successful. D. Koen observed a pair in the same valley on 19 November 2023.

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
5	0	0



Blue Crane

Crombec, Long-billed

Sylvietta rufescens

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

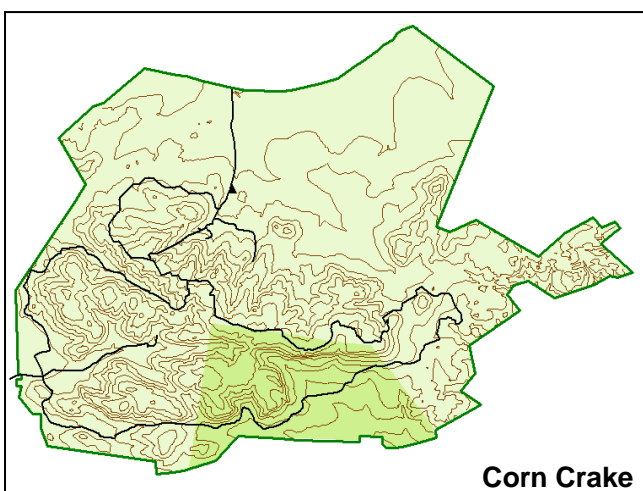
Probable resident. Found mainly in wooded habitats in the south and west. Solitary. Day (1975) recorded two on Blesboklaagte in May 1971. Four were ringed in the aloe forest in the Kareekloof during July to September (SAFRING).

Crake, Corn

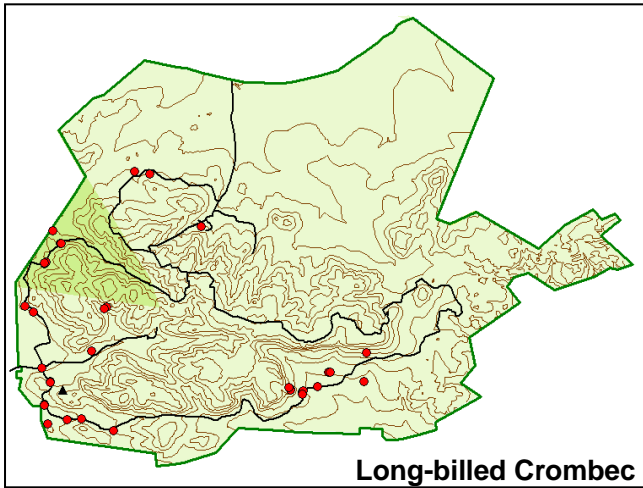
Crex crex

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Vagrant, but probably overlooked. An individual was flushed from rank vegetation at the edge of a wetland during owl surveys in the Diepkloof area on 15 January 2010. S. Wolff recorded the species in the Elandsvlakte area in December 1974 (Day 1975). The record of a specimen supposedly ringed at Elandsvlakte on 15 August 1973 (SAFRING) may be erroneous given the diversity of other rarities claimed to have been captured on the same day.



Corn Crake



Long-billed Crombec

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
25	10	2

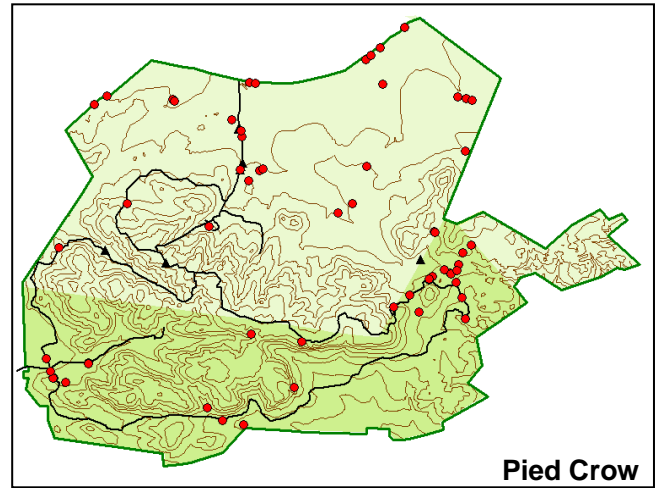
Crow, Pied

Corvus albus

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Probable resident; breeds. Widespread, found over all habitats except summit montane grassland. Solitary, in pairs and small groups (≤ 4). Up to eight were recorded during CAR. Adults were seen feeding young in a nest on a pylon on 1 December 2022. Day (1975) observed that individuals occasionally wandered into the reserve and S. Wolff recorded breeding at Schoongezicht in November 1974. Despite becoming increasingly common in recent years, interactions with other bird species remain minimal at present, though a pair was seen chasing a Black Sparrowhawk on 23 August 2021.

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
39	4	16

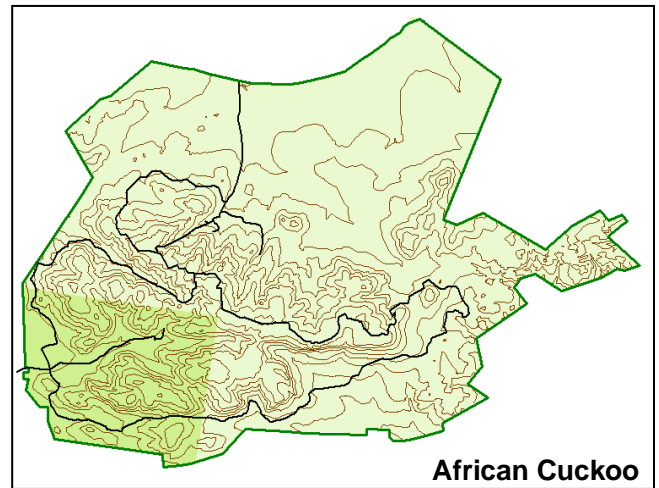


Pied Crow

Cuckoo, African

Cuculus gularis

Vagrant. Recorded during February and March 1974 by S. Wolff (Day 1975). No subsequent records for the reserve during BIRP or our survey or for pentads that overlap the reserve during SABAP2.



African Cuckoo

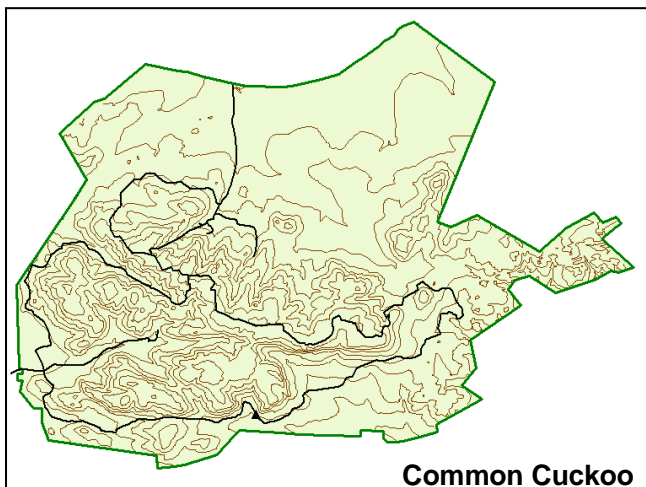
Cuckoo, Common

Cuculus canorus

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Vagrant. Recorded only once by CWJ in kloof bush at Holhoek picnic site on 4 February 2008. There are two records for pentads that overlap the reserve

during SABAP2, most recently on 7 March 2016.

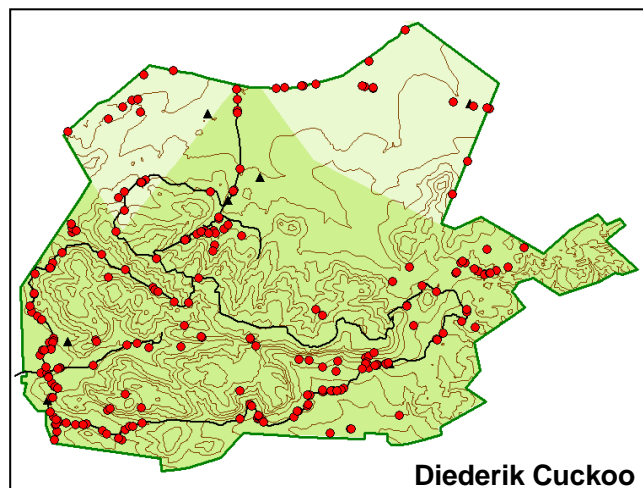


Cuckoo, Diederik
Chrysococcyx caprius

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Intra-African breeding migrant. Widespread, found in all habitats but rarely in summit montane grassland. Often solitary but up to three together. Courtship feeding was observed on 16 November 2023. A female carrying an egg was seen being chased by a Southern Masked Weaver near Kareekloof on 1 December 2022, evidence of the host parasite relationship in action. Breeding was also reported for March (BIRP 2012). Three were ringed (SAFRING).

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
41	39	50*

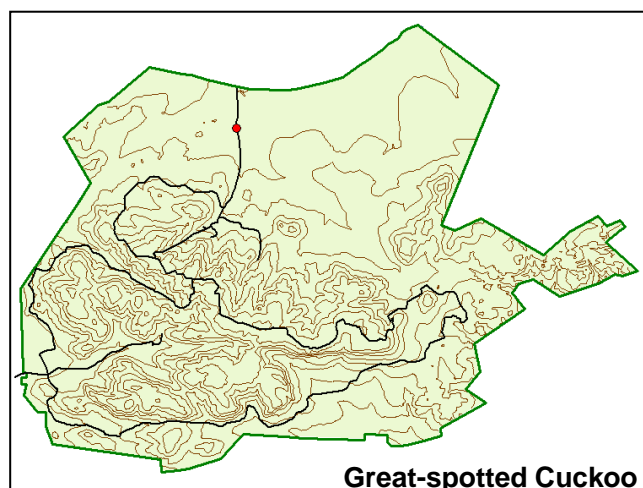


Cuckoo, Great-spotted
Clamator glandarius

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Vagrant. Recorded only once on 28 October 2018 at the Diepkloof gate.

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
1	0	0

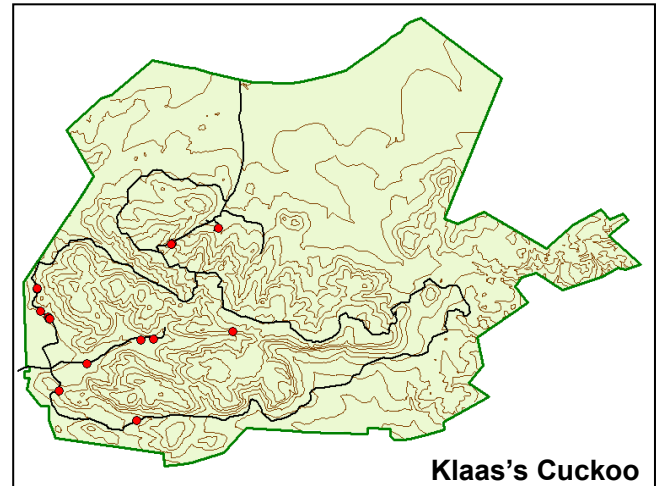


Cuckoo, Jacobin

Clamator jacobinus

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Vagrant. An individual was recorded by Day (1975) in December 1970. Reported for January and December during BIRP. Our records are for 15 February 2018 and 8 December 2022.



REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
3	1	2*

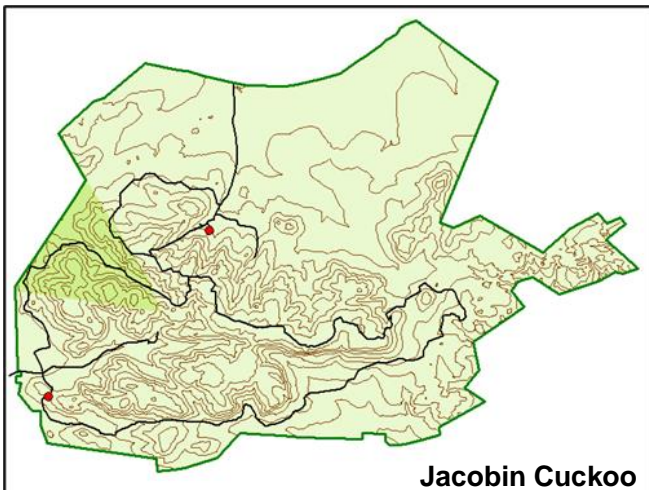
Cuckoo, Red-chested

Cuculus solitarius

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Intra-African migrant. Day (1975) recorded arrivals as early as September. Most records were from the kloof bush, sweet thorn savannah and wooded drainage lines in steep-slope grassland. Solitary and usually detected on call.

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
28	26	22*

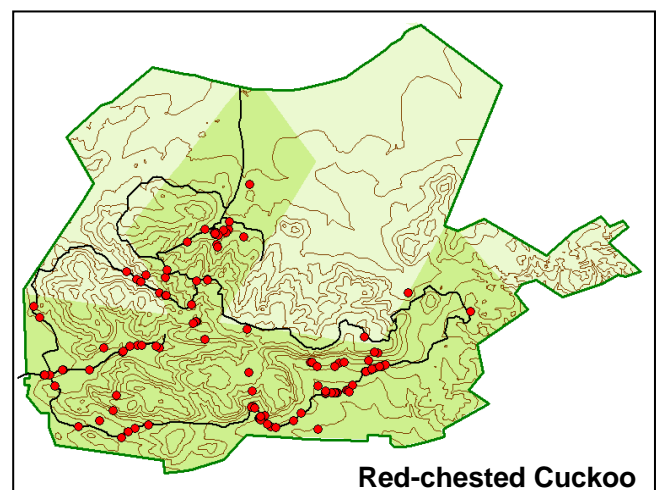


Cuckoo, Klaas's

Chrysococcyx klaas

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Intra-African migrant. Recorded in a diversity of wooded habitats but mainly in the west.

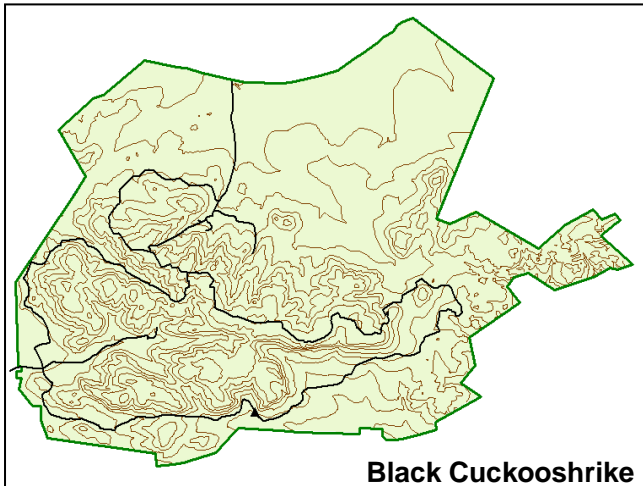


REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
11	2	0

Cuckooshrike, Black
Campephaga flava

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Vagrant. An individual was seen by CWJ in kloof bush at Holhoek picnic site on 4 February 2008.

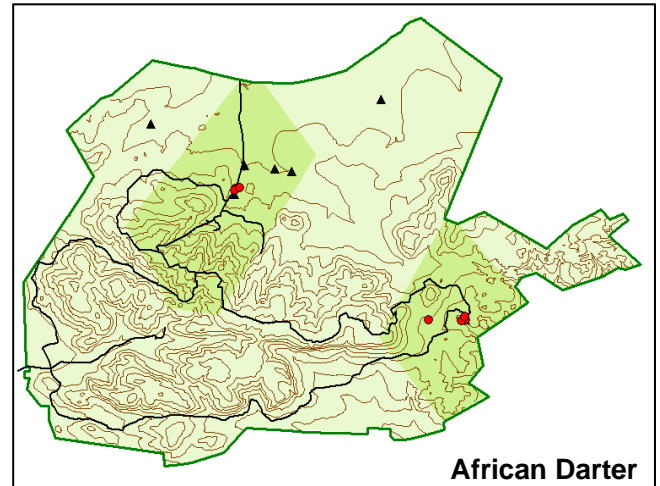


Darter, African
Anhinga rufa

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Visitor; has bred. Individuals were recorded for various dams on the northern extension and at Sedaven. A pair was seen at Evergreen Ranch on 16 February 2016 where Day (1975) recorded breeding in March 1971 and January 1972. During CWAC two were recorded.

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
8	14	23*

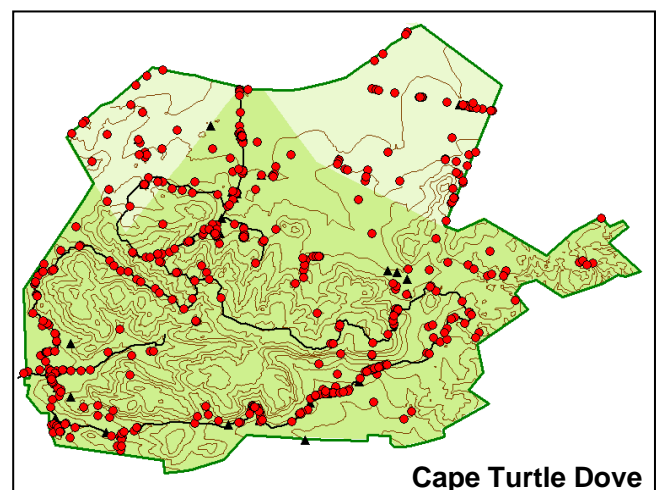


Dove, Cape Turtle (Ring-necked)
Streptopelia capicola

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Resident; has bred. Widespread, found in all habitats. Solitary, in pairs and small groups. Day (1975) routinely recorded flocks of up to 50 and though he observed breeding, he did not indicate when. Eight were ringed (SAFRING).

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
99	49	92*

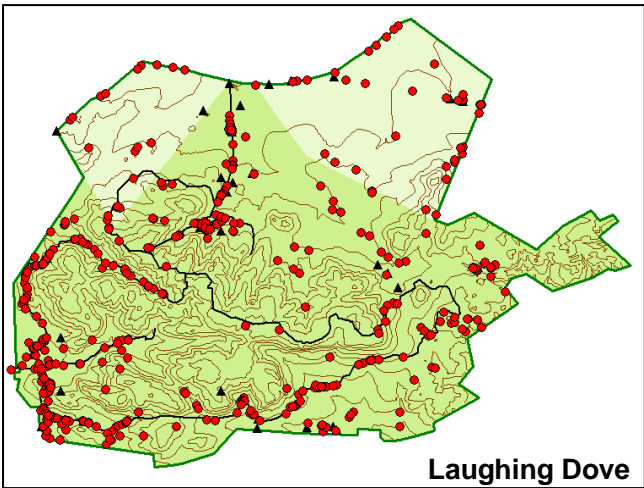


Dove, Laughing
Spilopelia senegalensis

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Resident; has bred. Recorded regularly in all habitats except summit montane grassland. Solitary, in pairs and small flocks (≤ 13). Breeding was reported for March during BIRP, and for August and December by Day (1975). Of the 318 individuals ringed, none were recaptured but one was recovered dead near where it was first trapped approximately two years later (SAFRING).

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
97	96	100*



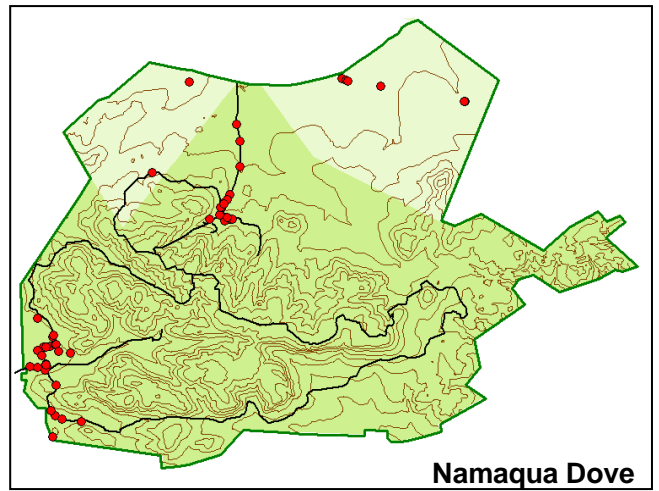
Dove, Namaqua
Oena capensis

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Probable resident. Recorded in all months except December; has bred. Widespread on the northern extension but rare outside sweet thorn savannah

on the original reserve. Absent from kloof bush which was reported as a favoured habitat by Day (1975). Usually solitary but occasionally in pairs. S. Wolff reported breeding in September 1971 (Day 1975).

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
30	11	44*

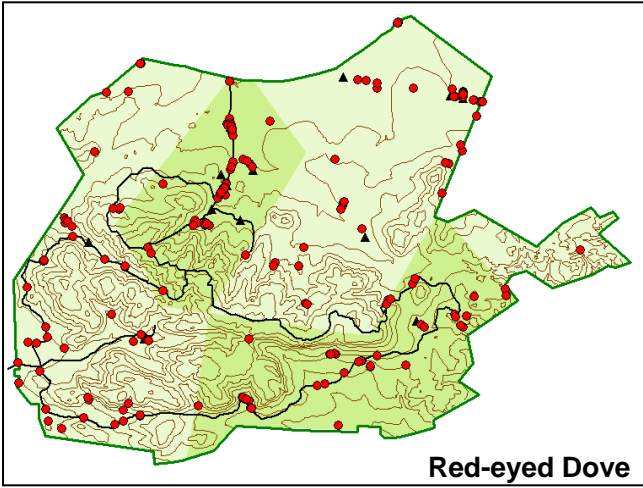


Dove, Red-eyed
Streptopelia semitorquata

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Breeding resident. Widespread, regularly found in all habitats except summit montane grassland. Solitary or in small groups, exceptionally 15 together. An active nest was found on 10 December 2021 and courtship behaviour was observed on 15 January 2023. Two were ringed (SAFRING).

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
93	48	16*



Red-eyed Dove

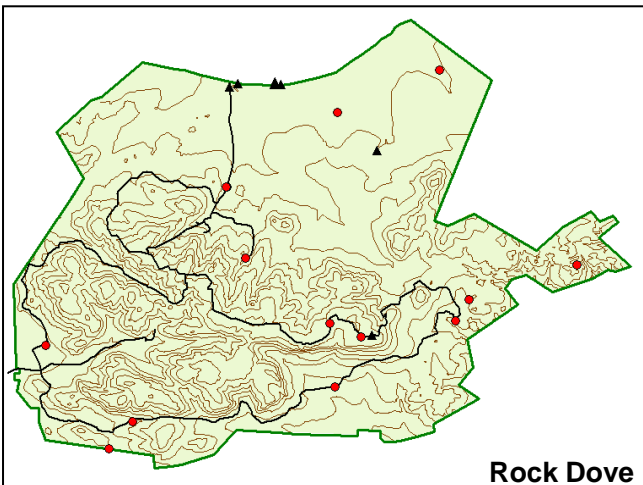
Dove, Rock

Columba livia

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Visitor. Naturalised alien. Recorded in most months and for all habitats except kloof bush. Solitary and in groups (≤ 30). Not readily distinguishable from racing pigeons or other domestic breeds at a distance. First recorded during BIRP but likely subject to the same observer constraints as we encountered. Ringed racing pigeons have been observed within the reserve on several occasions.

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
14	9	0



Rock Dove

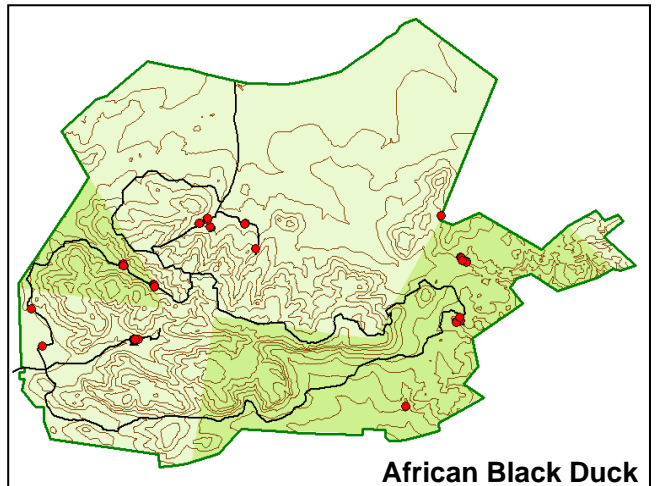
Duck, African Black

Anas sparsa

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Breeding visitor. Recorded in all months but only on 31% of waterbird counts. Widespread, usually found on small dams and in wet years occasionally along non-perennial streams. Two adults and eight ducklings were seen on a small dam next to the Cheetah Trail on 20 May 2022.

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
30	4	23*



African Black Duck

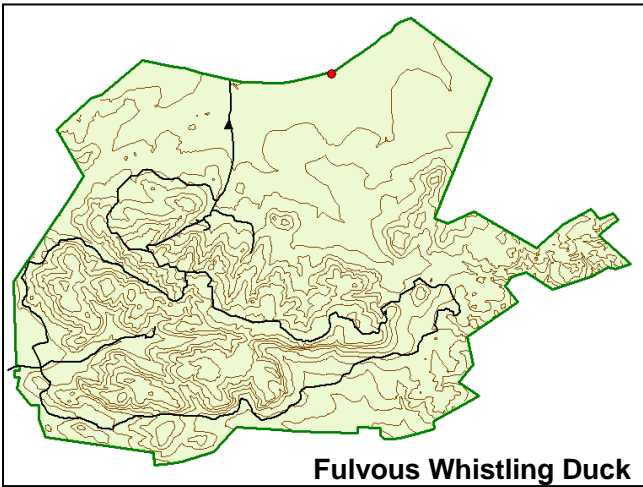
Duck, Fulvous Whistling

Dendrocygna bicolor

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Vagrant. The 50 reported in December 1971 (Day 1975) has not been equalled. Our records are for 9 February 2012 and on 1 February 2022. Up to eight.

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
1	1	3*



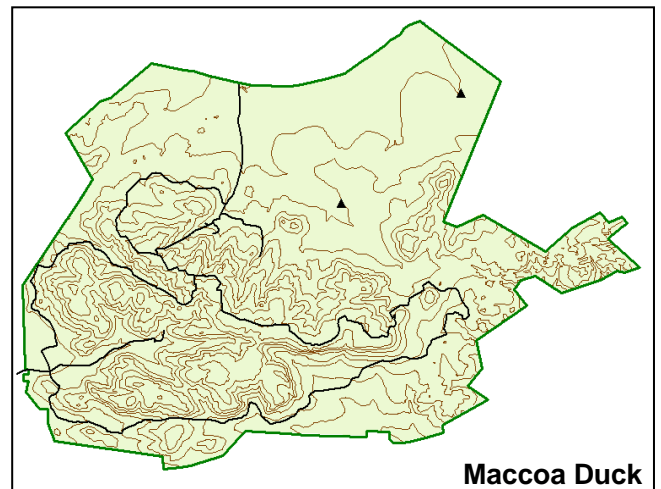
Fulvous Whistling Duck

Duck, Maccoa

Oxyura maccoa NT, EN

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
█	█										

Vagrant; has bred. Not recorded by Day (1975) but noted to occur within 10km of the reserve. First recorded by reserve staff on 24 January 2005 and then with four young on 28 February that year. Subsequently counted by D. Koen during CWAC including three on 9 February 2012 and nine on 13 February 2015. All CWAC observations were at large dams on the northern extension. There are 12 records for four pentads that overlap the reserve during SABAP2, most recently on 25 August 2014.



Maccoa Duck

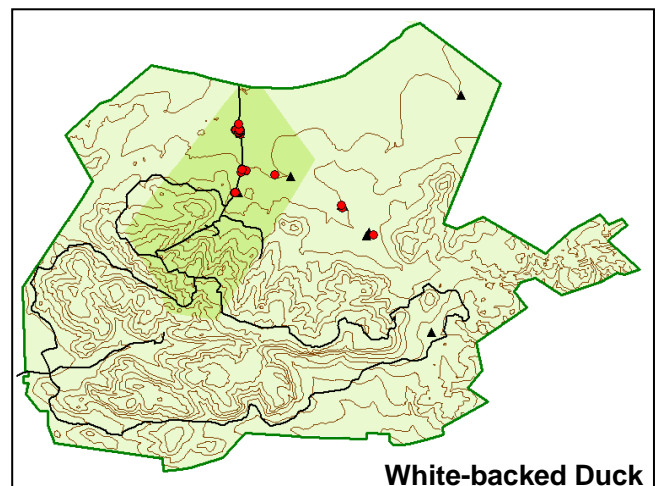
Duck, White-backed

Thalassornis leuconotus

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
█	█	█		█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█

Visitor. Recorded in most months but only on 57% of waterbird counts. Restricted to dams on the northern extension. Usually solitary, in pairs or small groups. Twenty-one recorded together on Valsfontein on 16 November 2023 was considered unusual. The count of 25 for the day exceeded the previous maximum of 11 during CWAC.

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
20	4	7*



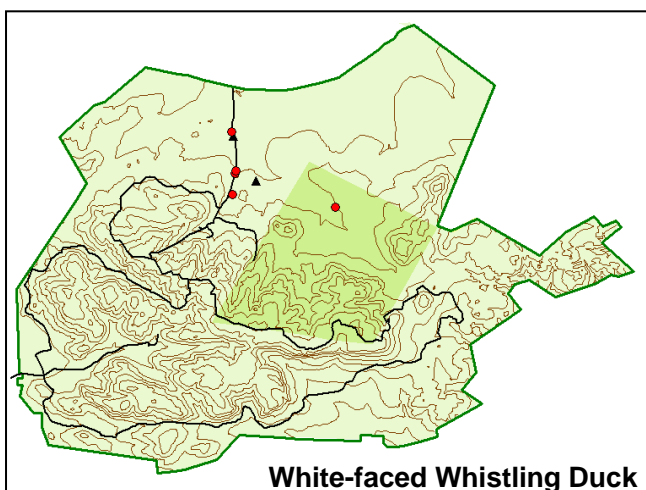
White-backed Duck

Duck, White-faced Whistling
Dendrocygna viduata

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Visitor; has bred. Recorded in most months but only on 43% of waterbird counts. Restricted to dams on the northern extension. Solitary, in pairs and in flocks (≤ 20). Up to 23 recorded during CWAC. Breeding reported for February (BIRP 2012).

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
32	4	0



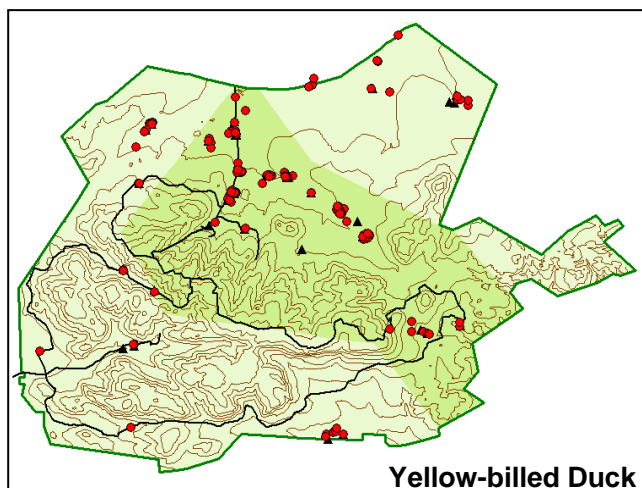
Duck, Yellow-billed
Anas undulata

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Breeding resident. Recorded on dams throughout the reserve but most commonly on the northern extension. Solitary or in pairs but more often in groups (≤ 36). Up to 139 recorded during CWAC. Day (1975) recorded flocks of up to 50. Parents with ducklings were recorded on 6 and 15 April 2021 and on

30 September 2022. Breeding was also reported for January-March and July (Day 1975, BIRP 2012). One was ringed on 5 August 1971 in the Elandsvlakte area (SAFRING).

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
82	56	57*

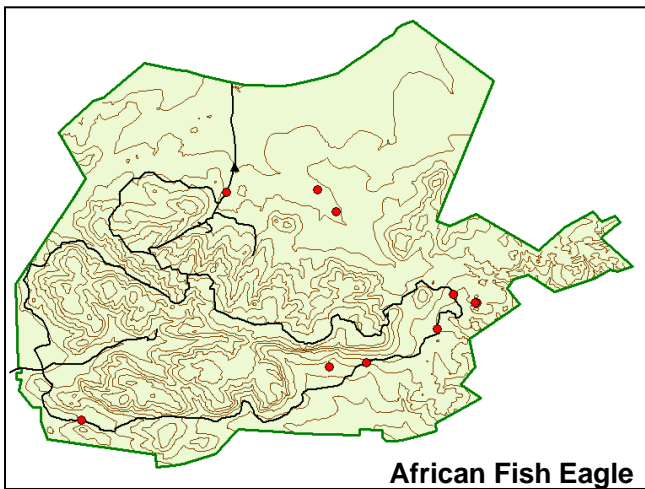


Eagle, African Fish
Haliaeetus vocifer

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Vagrant. Recorded twice during BIRP for January and March. Subsequent sightings were mainly of individuals, but pairs were seen at a large dam on the northern extension on 22 September 2021 and over Vaalkop on 2 November 2023.

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
9	1	0



Eagle, Black-chested Snake
Circaetus pectoralis

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

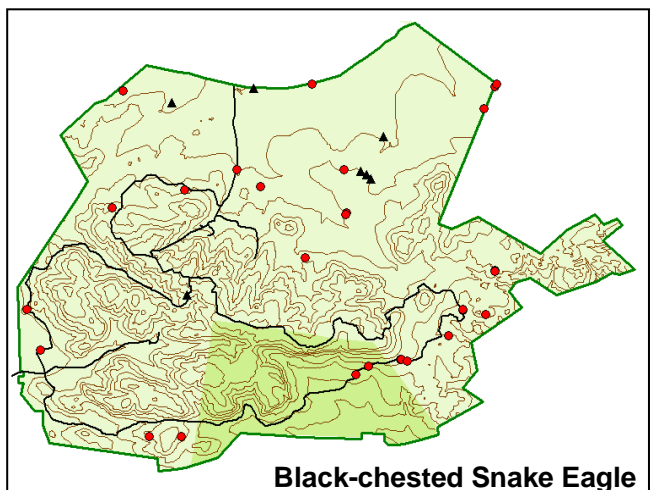
Visitor. Recorded for all months except January. Widespread, found over all habitats except summit montane grassland and kloof bush. Solitary or in pairs. S. Wolff recorded this species south of the ridge in September 1972 (Day 1975).

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
21	4	0

Eagle, African Hawk
Aquila spilogaster

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Vagrant. Recorded south of the ridge by S. Wolff for a few weeks in October 1973 (Day 1975). CWJ flushed a single bird from a partially plucked guineafowl carcass in a woodland patch on the northern extension on 1 December 2022. There were no further records for pentads that overlap the reserve during SABAP2.

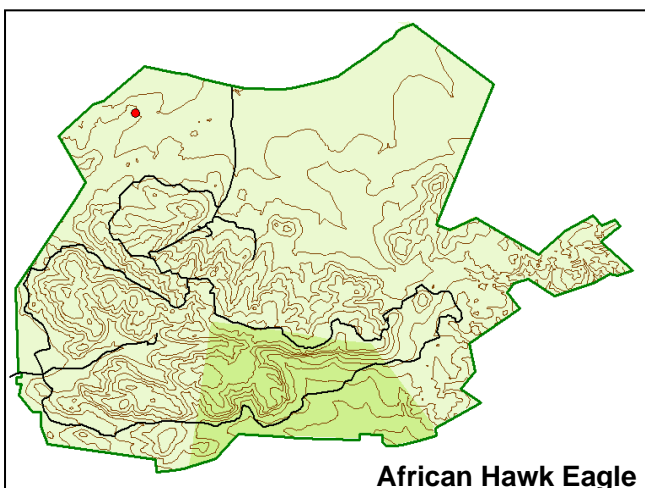


REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
1	0	0

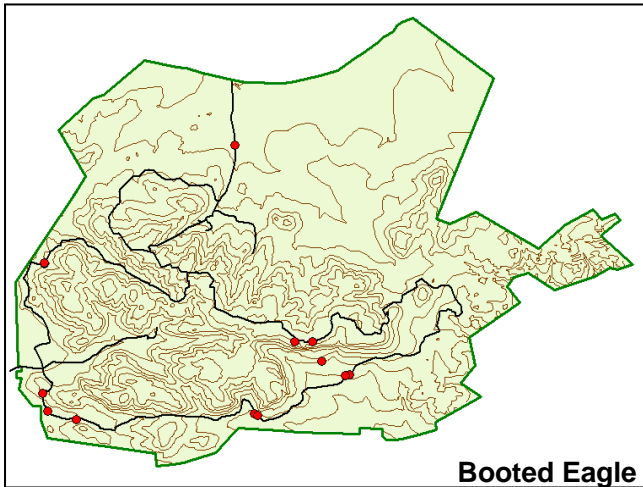
Eagle, Booted
Hieraaetus pennatus

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Palaearctic migrant. First recorded by CWJ near the Kareekloof gate on 29 October 2014. Subsequently seen over summit montane grassland, around Holhoek near cliff faces rising out of kloof bush and over sweet thorn savannah.



REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
9	0	0

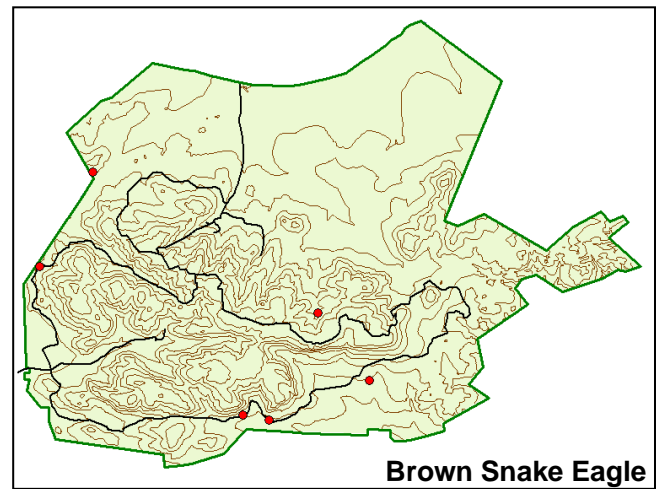


Eagle, Brown Snake
Circaetus cinereus

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Visitor. First recorded on 23 January 2019. Subsequently seen on 14 and 20 February and 17 July 2020 (a pair), 12 February and 16 April 2021 and most recently in the Wolwekloof area on 28 September 2023. Most commonly seen over steep-slope grassland.

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
8	0	0

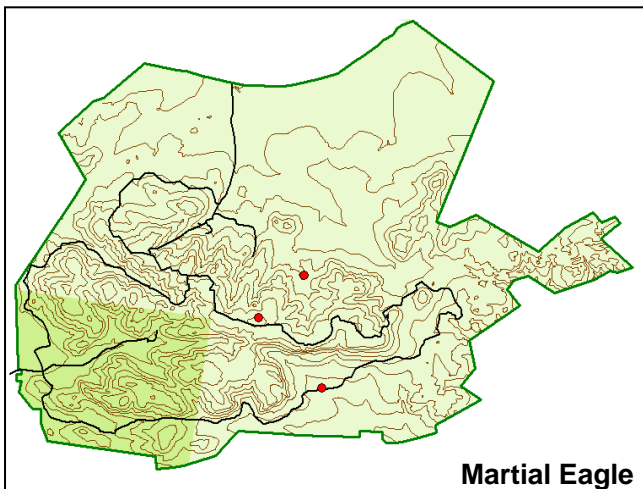


Eagle, Martial
Polemaetus bellicosus EN, EN

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Breeding visitor. First recorded in 1966 during a Wildlife Society survey. S. Wolff subsequently found a nest in the Langkloof in September 1972 (Day 1975) but did not indicate whether it had been used recently. We surveyed this drainage line in 2018/9 and found no suitable nest sites. We subsequently recorded individuals on 18 September 2020 and 19 May 2022 and M. Johnson reported one perched on a pylon south of the ridge on 14 November 2022. An active nest with a large chick was later found on an electricity pylon in the Langkloof during an Eskom line inspection in August 2023. The chick and an adult were still present on 5 September, but the nest was empty on 28 September 2023. Most recently recorded on 27 November 2023 on Blesboklaagte by D. Koen, an individual interacting with a Verreaux's Eagle.

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
3	0	0



Martial Eagle

Eagle, Steppe

Aquila nipalensis LC, EN

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

A moulting juvenile was photographed in flight over the reserve by G. Hazel on 11 April 2021.

[No map]

Eagle, Verreaux's

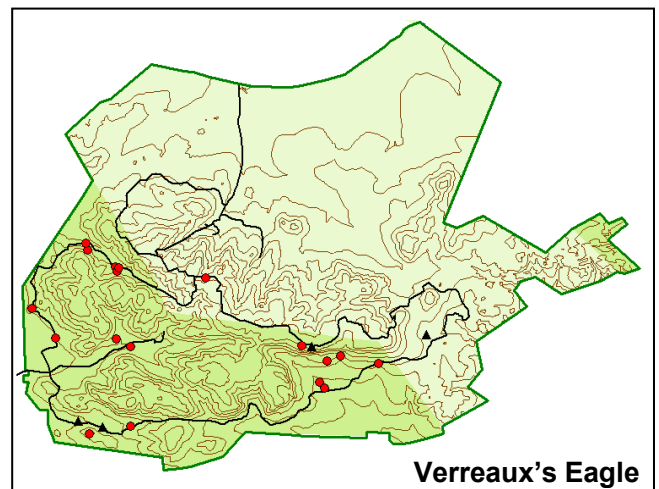
Aquila verreauxii VU, LC

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Visitor; has bred. Recorded in all months but not resident. Our sightings were all close to the ridge and mainly over steep-slope grassland. Usually solitary (including two immatures), but pairs were seen in the Steenbokkloof on 6 March 2017 and 1 December 2022 and at Blesboklaagte on 30 November 2021. There is a known nest site in the Steenbokkloof where an individual was recorded on 19 July 2018 but breeding last occurred there in the late 1990s or early 2000s. The Chacma Baboon (*Papio ursinus*) population on the

reserve is very high and the eagles may have been displaced by baboon activity. Day (1975) reported sightings for various locales and deemed the species to be a potential breeding resident. A juvenile and two adults were seen in the vicinity of Holhoek in September 1972. Several pairs in Gauteng nest on man-made platforms and it is possible that such a nest site has been overlooked in the Heidelberg area. D. Koen has twice observed interactions between Verreaux's and Martial Eagles, most recently on Blesboklaagte on 27 November 2023.

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
13	8	14*



Verreaux's Eagle

Egret, Great

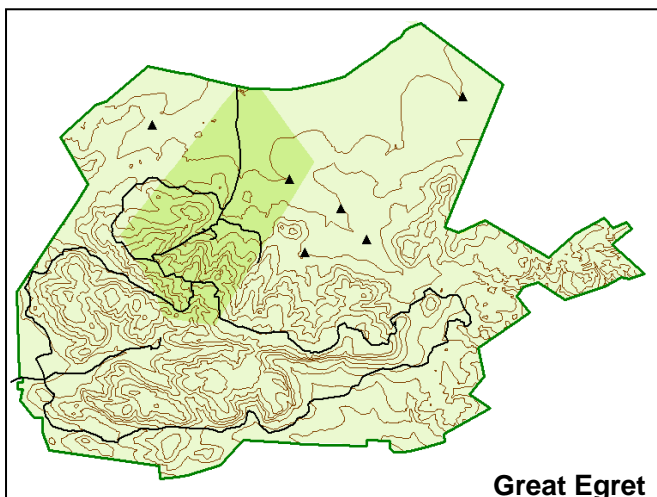
Ardea alba

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Vagrant. Day (1975) recorded an individual at Evergreen Ranch in 1972. There have been several subsequent sightings, most recently on 10 August 2017. Up to four were recorded during

CWAC. All CWAC records are from dams on the northern extension.

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
0	4	3*



Great Egret

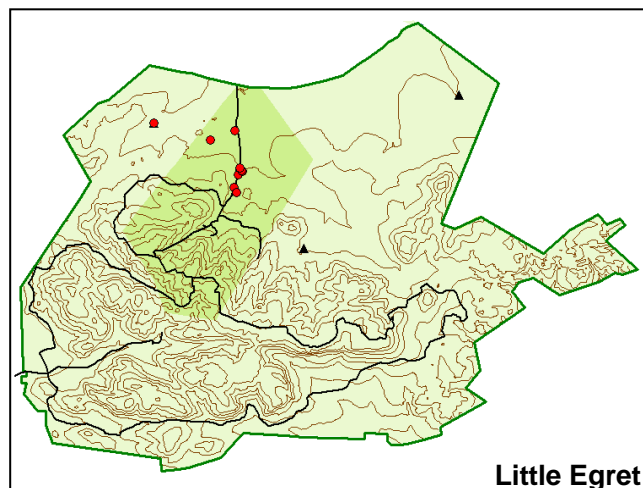
Egret, Little

Egretta garzetta

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Erratic visitor. Restricted to dams on the northern extension. Day (1975) recorded this species once in the same general area. Up to two were recorded during CWAC.

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
7	4	3*



Little Egret

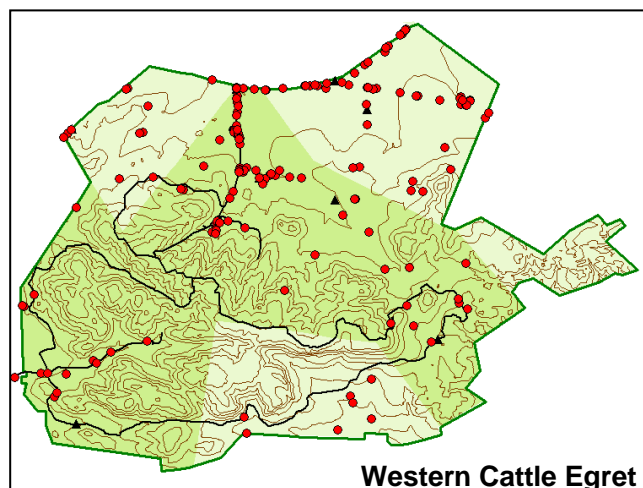
Egret, Western Cattle

Bubulcus ibis

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Visitor. Recorded throughout the year but not known to breed. Widespread but mainly in plains grassland and old lands. Often occurs in association with herds of game. Solitary or in small groups as recorded by Day (1975), occasionally in larger flocks of 50-80. Up to 70 were recorded during CWAC.

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
75	44	32*



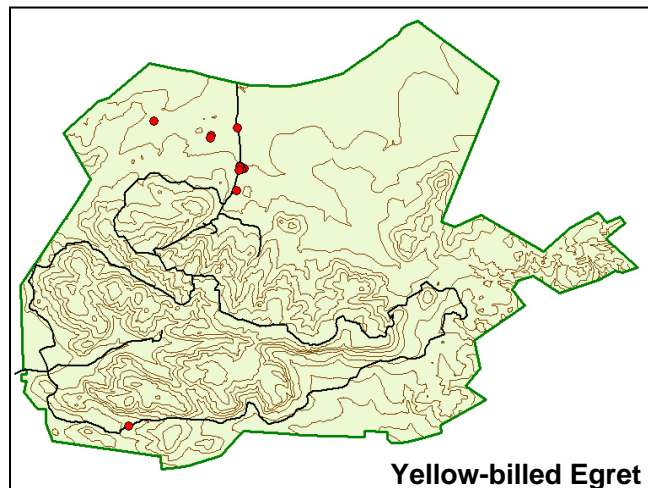
Western Cattle Egret

Egret, Yellow-billed (Intermediate)
Ardea intermedia

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Erratic visitor. Mainly found at dams on the northern extension. Up to two recorded during CWAC.

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
12	4	0

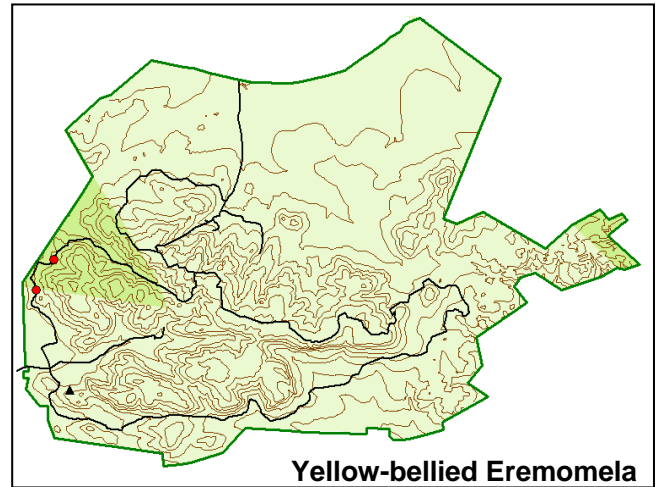


Eremomela, Yellow-bellied
Eremomela icteropygialis

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Visitor; probably overlooked. Individuals were seen in sweet thorn savannah on the western edge of the reserve on 24 August 2018 and again on 21 February 2021. Day (1975) recorded a few birds on the eastern boundary of the reserve in October 1970 and on Blesboklaagte in June 1971. One was ringed in the aloe forest in the Kareekloof on 27 September 2005 (SAFRING).

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
3	2	4*

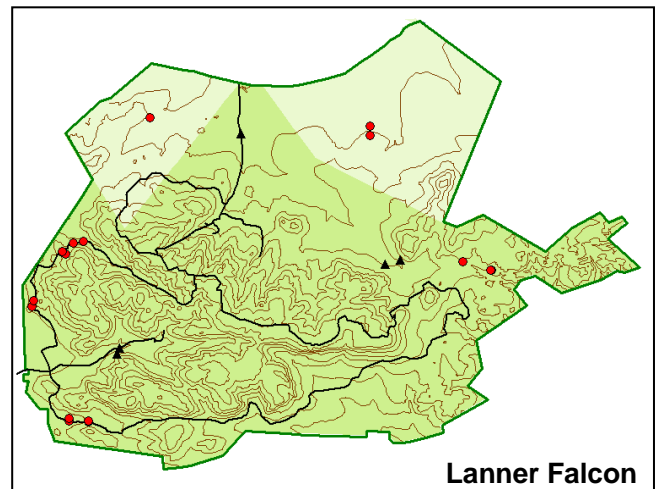
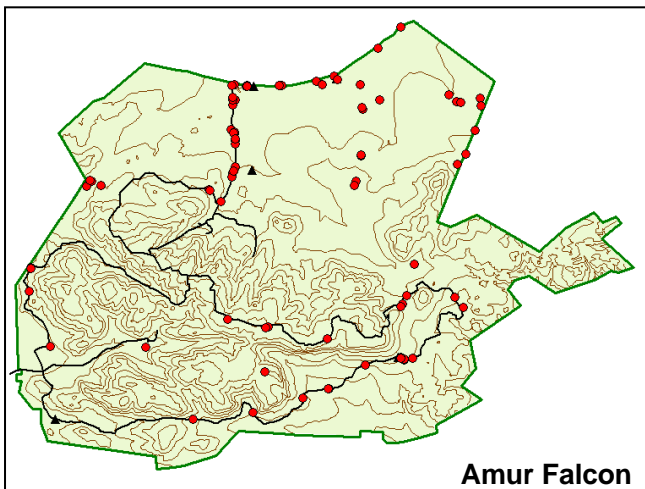


Falcon, Amur
Falco amurensis

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Palaearctic migrant. Recorded during November to April, but only from late December to March in recent years. Widespread over grassland areas. There was a regular communal roost in Heidelberg but in recent years a stand of mature *Eucalyptus* trees at Mayfair has been used on occasion. Large gatherings perch conspicuously on fences and overhead wires in this area in the early morning: 200 (March 2017), 550 (March 2018), 675 (February 2019), 400 (February 2022) and 680 (March 2022).

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
25	19	0



Falcon, Lanner

Falco biarmicus VU, LC

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Visitor. Recorded throughout the year but not in all months. Widespread, absent only from summit montane grassland. Solitary, occasionally in pairs, seldom more. At least six were seen at widespread localities on 20 February 2020 including three involved in an aerial display. Breeding was recorded in three areas during 1972-1974 (Day 1975). Four were ringed in the Elandsvlakte area in the 1970s (SAFRING), an area for which there are no recent records.

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
8	2	22*

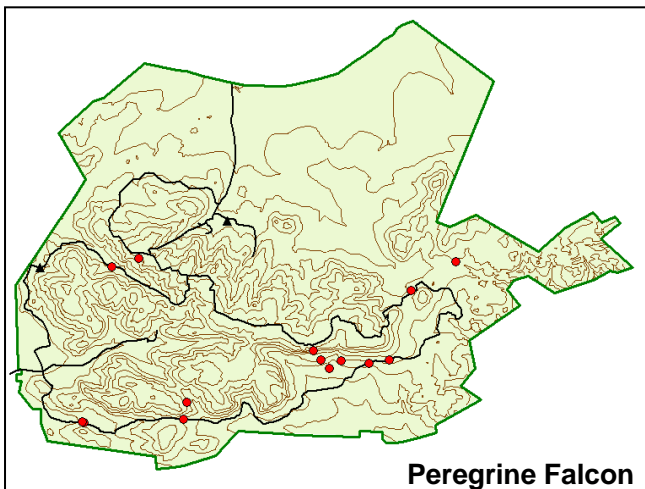
Falcon, Peregrine

Falco peregrinus

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Visitor; may breed. First recorded during the Wildlife Society survey in 1966, the occurrence of this species could not be confirmed by Day (1975), and it was therefore excluded from the original bird checklist. Widespread in the south. So far recorded over all habitats except rocky shrubland. Solitary and pairs. Most recently recorded on 2 November 2023. Suspected breeding on cliffs at Feeskrans in late September 2018. The site is difficult to access regularly and too far off the road to record any activity.

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
12	2	0

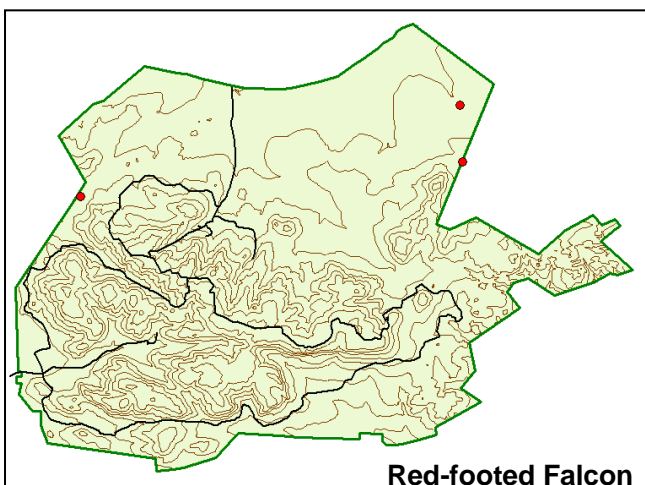


Falcon, Red-footed
Falco vespertinus NT, NT

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Vagrant. Individuals were recorded on 13 February and 17 March 2015, on 18 March 2019 when seen to catch a rodent in the plains grassland on the western boundary of the reserve and most recently on 9 March 2021 along the Eendracht Road. The breeding record for December (BIRP 2012) is an error, likely a sighting of a juvenile.

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
3	0	0

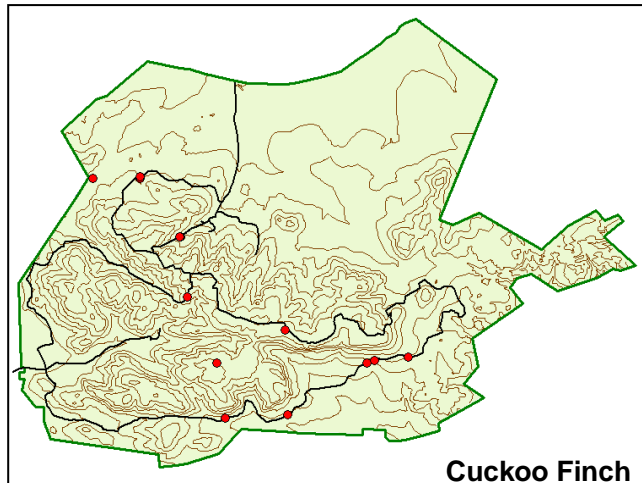


Finch, Cuckoo
Anomalospiza imberbis

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Breeding visitor. Scattered records mainly for steep-slope grassland. Solitary (usually males) but a flock of 16 (including 4 yellow males) was seen on 19 November 2021. Two juveniles were seen being fed by a Neddicky in woodland south of the ridge on 17 March 2022. On 2 November 2023 two males were seen performing an upright jumping 'dance' with quivering wings on the edge of the road.

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
13	4	0

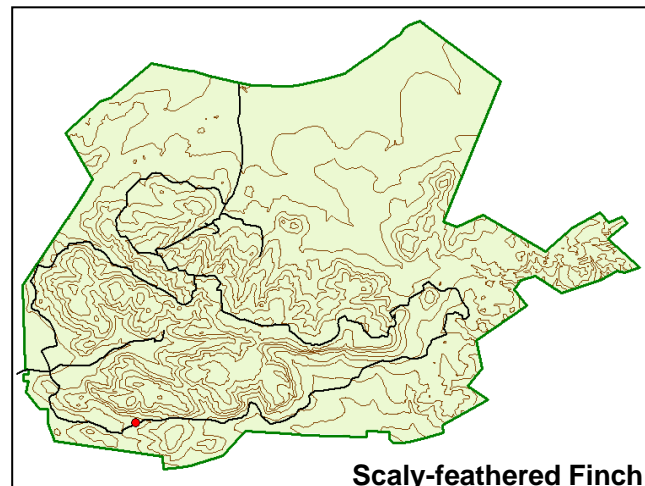


Finch, Red-headed
Amadina erythrocephala

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Visitor; has bred. Recorded for most months but occurrence erratic with several years between successive sightings. Found in sweet thorn

savannah and plains grassland. Usually solitary or in small groups but E. Marais and F. Peacock reported a remarkable sighting of a loose flock of thousands during a visit to the Eendracht Road on 7 July 2004. Recorded most recently on 25 August 2022. Several pairs were seen in August 1971 and S. Wolff observed breeding at Elandsvlakte in June 1974. Two were ringed in the Elandsvlakte area on 28 February 1973 and four in the Kareekloof in 1998 and 2001.



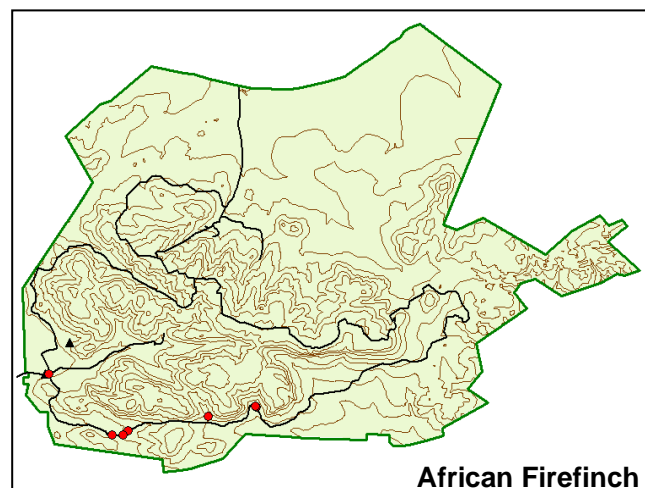
Firefinch, African

Lagonosticta rubricata

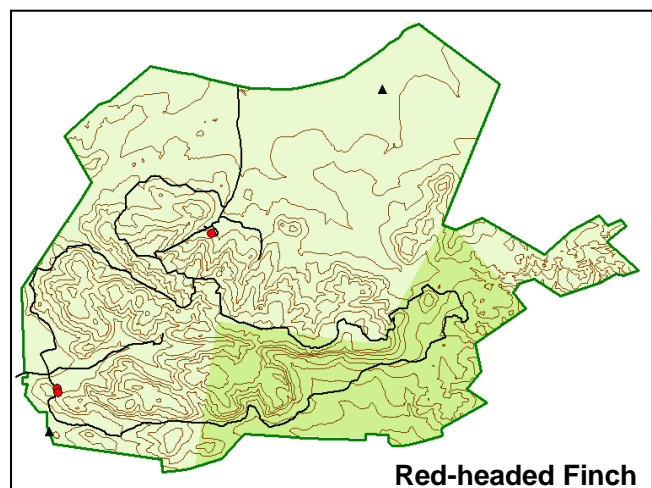


Visitor. Probably overlooked. Restricted to wooded habitats in the south and west. Small groups. Our most recent record is for 11 June 2021. Three were ringed on 15 July 2006 and two on 30 July 2014, all in kloof bush just west of the Schoongezicht homestead (SAFRING).

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
7	5	0



REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
4	12	6*



Finch (Weaver), Scaly-feathered
Sporopipes squamifrons



Vagrant. Recorded once during BIRP for April and then by ID in a transition area between grassland and sweet thorn savannah on 19 July 2018.

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
1	<1	0

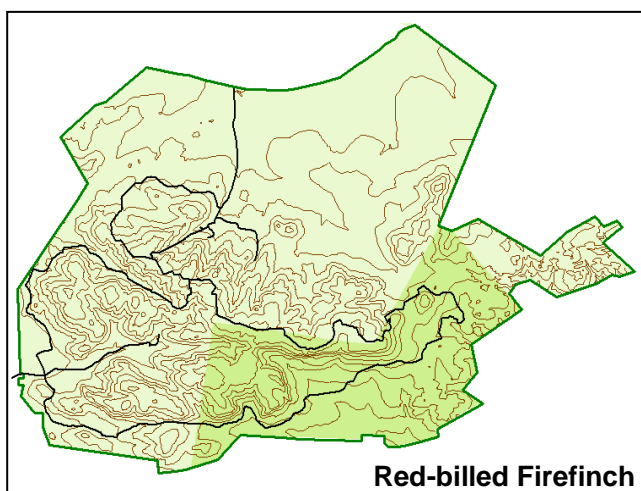
Firefinch, Jameson's
Lagonosticta rhodopareia

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

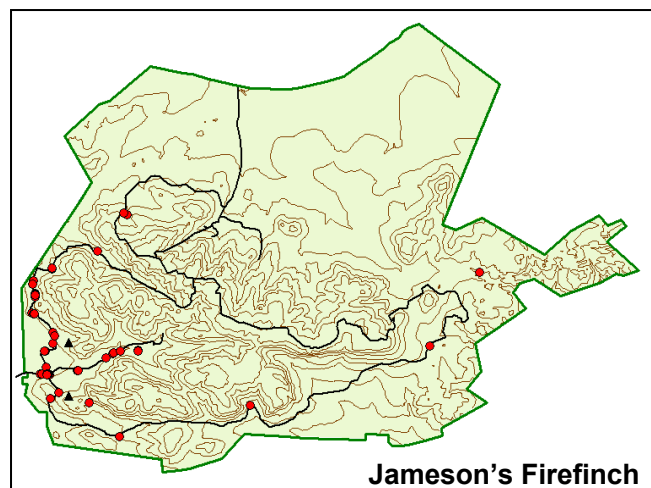
Breeding resident. Widespread in wooded habitat but most common in sweet thorn savannah. Solitary, in pairs or threes. Juvenile seen with adults on 8 July 2022. Thirty-five were ringed, most in the Kareekloof area. Two were subsequently recaptured (21 days & 2 months later) close to where they were initially trapped. One was caught at Evergreen Ranch on 26 October 1999 (SAFRING), an area for which we have no recent records.

in May 1974 (Day 1975). There were four subsequent records during BIRP and three for two pentads that overlap the reserve during SABAP2. Most recently on 1 May 2019. Interestingly, the only records of Village Indigobirds, brood parasites of the Red-billed Firefinch, reported by Day (1975) were of a pair at Elandsvlakte in late 1974 and early 1975.

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
0	2	2



REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
32	1	0



Fiscal, Southern (Common)
Lanius collaris

Firefinch, Red-billed
Lagonosticta senegala

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

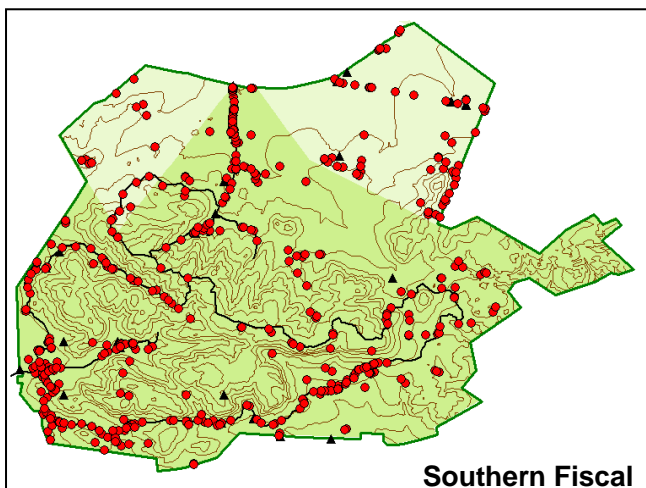
J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Vagrant. An individual was mist-netted on Boschhoek in March 1971 and S. Wolff reported breeding at Elandsvlakte

Breeding resident. Widespread and found in all habitats. Mostly solitary. An adult was recorded with two juveniles on 1 December 2022 and a lone juvenile on 25 January 2023. Breeding was also reported for October and November (Day 1975, BIRP 2012). Twenty-nine were ringed of which two were subsequently recaptured (one 3 times over 2 years and the other after 2

months) where they were originally ringed (SAFRING).

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
99	91	92*



Telegram group). Unusual year for this species with other out-of-range reports for the province.

[No map]

Flufftail, Red-chested

Sarothrura rufa

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Possible resident; easily overlooked unless calling. First heard on 24 June 2009. Records are scattered throughout the year and mainly based on call. An adult male was flushed during owl surveys along the Rietspruit on 6 June 2023 and a female or juvenile was flushed along the Natalspruit on 7 June 2023. Most recently heard calling at Evergreen Ranch on 16 November 2023.

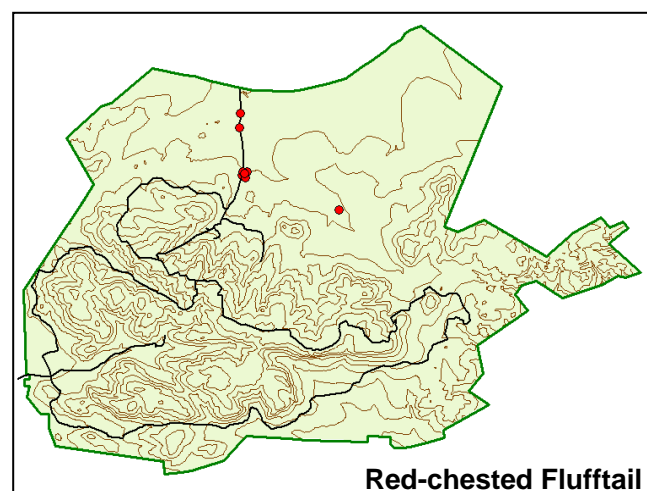
Flamingo, Greater

Phoenicopterus roseus NT, LC

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Vagrant. A flock of 30 flew close to the northern boundary of the reserve on 30 January 2020.

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
7	0	0



REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
1	0	0

[No map]

Flufftail, Buff-spotted

Sarothrura elegans

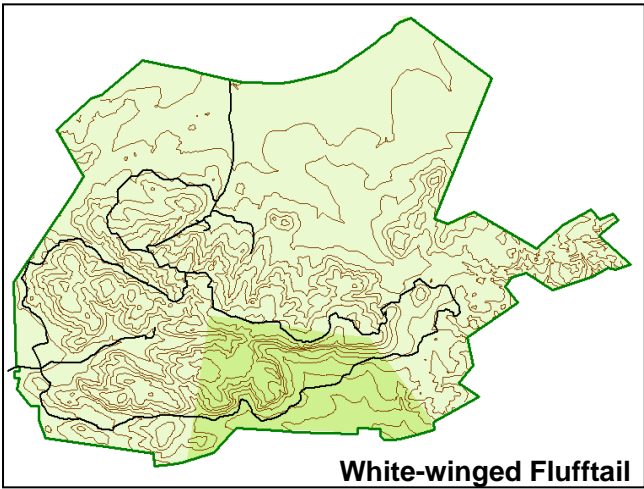
J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Vagrant. Heard calling in rainy weather at Holhoek Picnic Site by D. Newman on 13 November 2022 (reported via

Flufftail, White-winged
Sarothrura ayresi CR, CR

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Vagrant. S. Wolff found a dead individual under powerlines on Elandsvlakte on 8 August 1975 (Wolff and Milstein 1976).

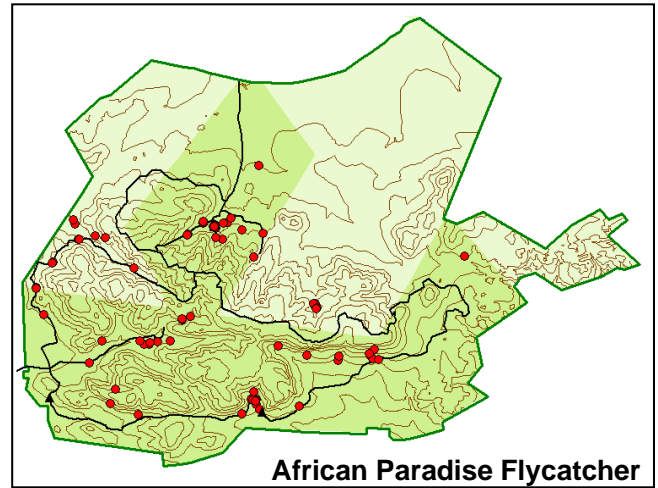


Flycatcher, African Paradise
Tersiphone viridis

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Intra-African; has bred. Recorded in wooded habitat throughout the reserve, mainly between October and March. Records for April, August, and September during BIRP suggest late departures and early arrivals in some years. Solitary and in small groups (≤ 3). Breeding recorded in December (Day 1975).

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
34	6	23*

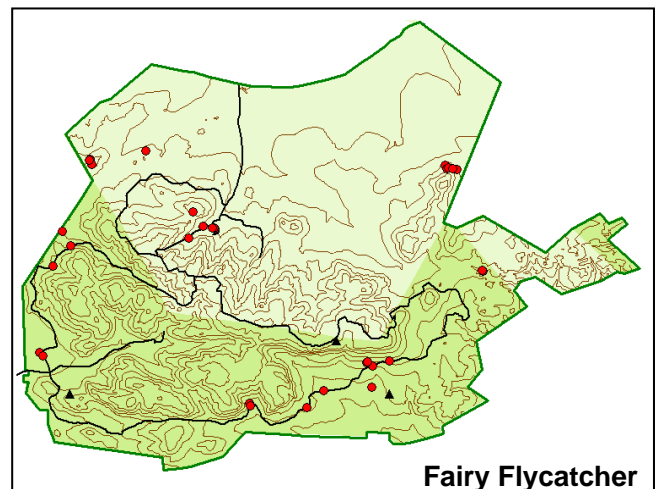


Flycatcher, Fairy
Stenostira scita

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Dry season migrant. Found in kloof bush, sweet thorn savannah and wooded patches in steep-slope grassland. Usually solitary, occasionally two together. Day (1975) often recorded up to ten in a day. Five were ringed between April and August (SAFRING).

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
22	16	26*



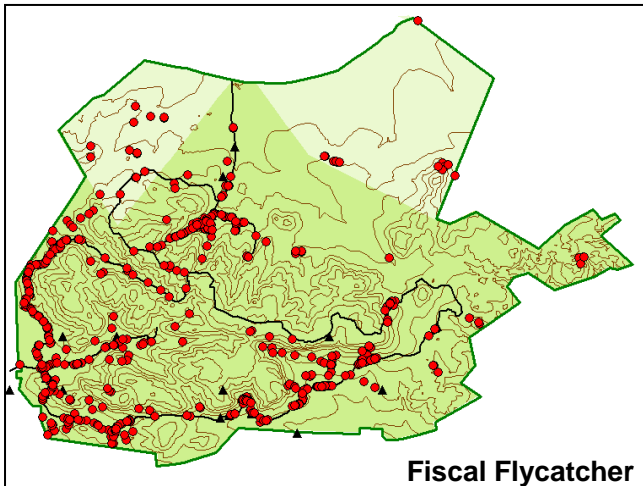
Flycatcher, Fiscal

Sigelus silens

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Breeding resident. Widespread and found in all habitats but uncommon in open grassland. Mainly solitary, also in pairs, rarely groups (3-4). Courtship display observed in September. Adults were seen with young in November and December and juvenile birds in December and February. Breeding was previously reported during November to March (Day 1975, BIRP 2012). Eighty-eight were ringed of which 14 were subsequently recaptured (1 day to just over a year later) where they were originally trapped (SAFRING).

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
95	91	84*



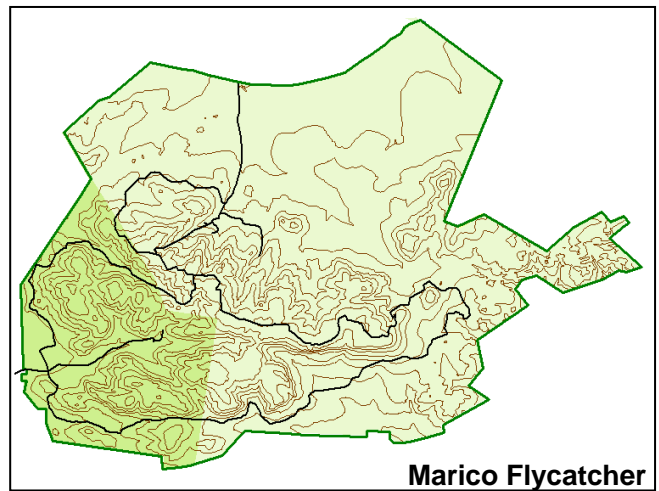
Flycatcher, Marico

Bradornis mariquensis

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Vagrant. Day (1975) recorded individuals in February, March, and December. There was one subsequent record each for November and December during BIRP and five records for two pentads that overlap the reserve during SABP2, most recently on 4 May 2020.

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
0	1	6*



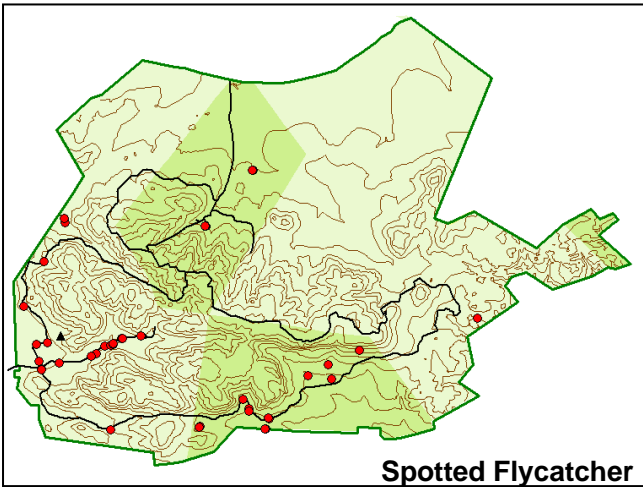
Flycatcher, Spotted

Muscicapa striata

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Palaearctic migrant. Mainly recorded during November to March but with arrivals as early as August and departures as late as May reported by Day (1975) and during BIRP. Widespread in wooded habitats but most often seen in sweet thorn savannah and kloof bush. Usually solitary, rarely two together. Two were ringed (SAFRING).

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
21	13	18*

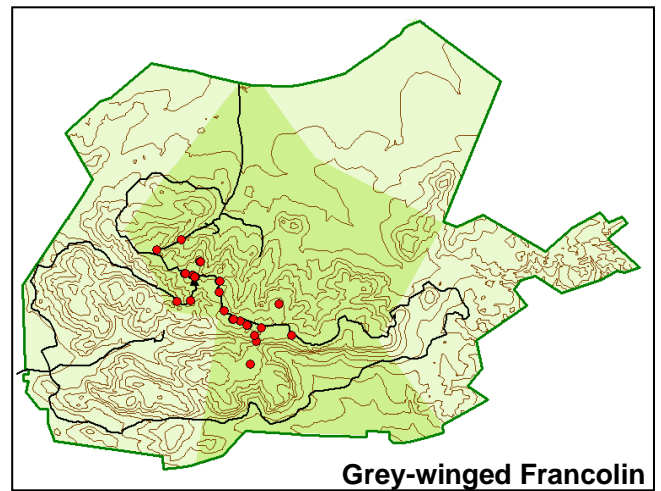


Francolin, Grey-winged
Scleroptila afra

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Resident; has bred. Mainly found in summit montane grassland but occasionally in adjacent steep-slope grassland. Solitary, in pairs and small coveys (≤ 7). Breeding reported for October and November (Day 1975, BIRP 2012).

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
16	24	?

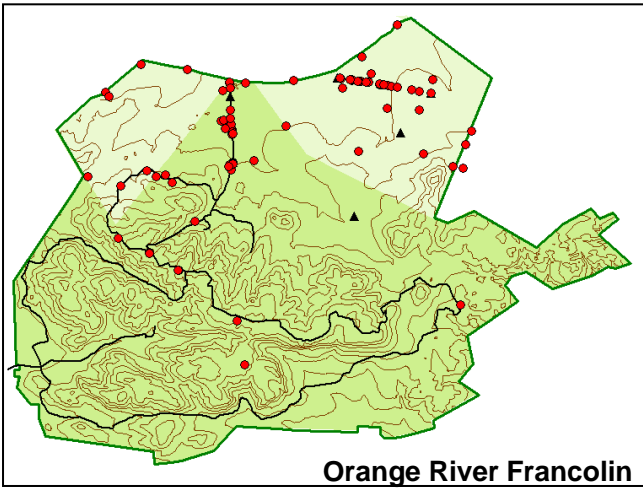


Francolin, Orange River
Scleroptila gutturalis

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Breeding resident. Only recorded five times by Day (1975) but subsequently found throughout the reserve during more focussed surveys by S. Wolff. Widespread in plains grassland and old lands, rarely at higher altitudes. Occurs individually, in pairs and small coveys (≤ 6). S. Wolff recorded breeding during August-October and January-March (Day 1975). Two were ringed at Elandsvlakte during 1972, an area for which there are no recent records, both were recovered (one after 3 months and the other after a year) in the same vicinity (SAFRING).

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
58	6	10*

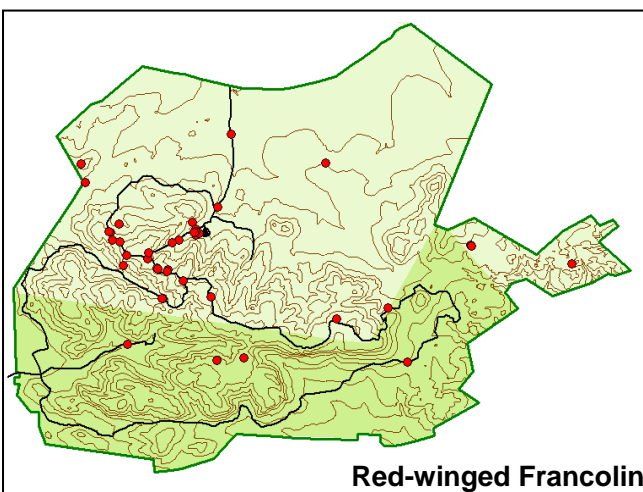


Francolin, Red-winged
Scleroptila levillantii

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Resident; has bred. Widespread but found mainly in steep-slope grassland. Solitary, in pairs and small coveys (3-4). S. Wolff reporting breeding in November 1974 (Day 1975).

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
28	23	6*

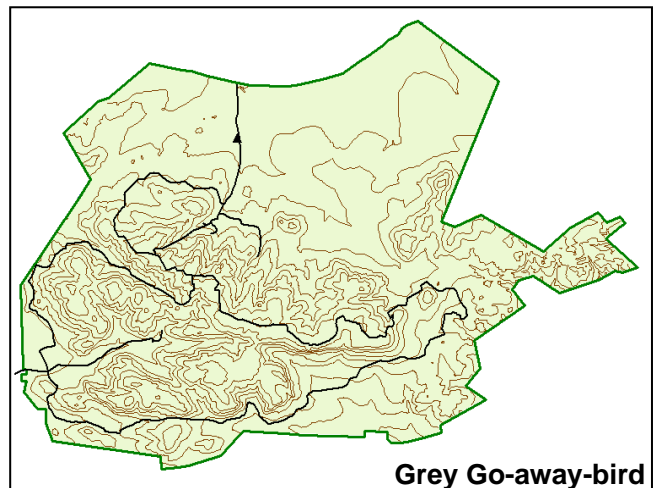


Go-away-bird, Grey
Corythaixoides concolor

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Vagrant. Reported as early as 1986 (Anon 1986), subsequently seen by CWJ on 28 November 2000 in the vicinity of Diepkloof. There were five additional records during BIRP and 28 for five pentads that overlap the reserve during SABAP2, most recently on 23 April 2022.

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
0	3	0



Goose, Domestic
Anser anser domesticus

Domestic Geese (≤ 12) were previously kept as part of the Diepkloof Farm Museum collection. Last recorded in July 2012.

[No map]

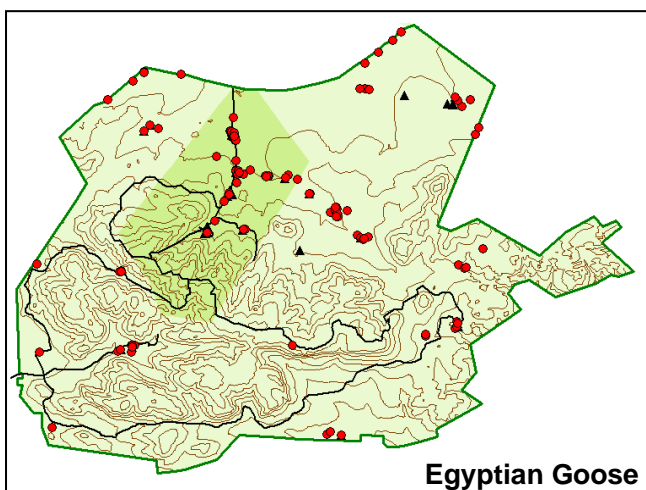
Goose, Egyptian

Alopochen aegyptiaca

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Possible resident. Recorded in all months and during 74% of waterbird counts but not known to have bred. Widespread, found on waterbodies throughout the reserve but mainly on the northern extension. Solitary, in pairs and small flocks (≤ 12). Up to 15 recorded during CWAC. Common in irrigated fields west of the Tamboekiesfontein Road.

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
59	12	10*



Goose, Spur-winged

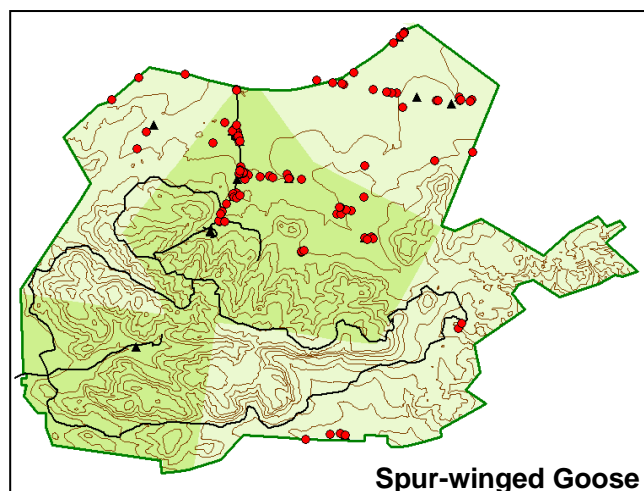
Plectropterus gambensis

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Visitor; has bred. Recorded in all months but only on 57% of waterbird counts. Mainly found on dams on the northern extension or seen perched on electricity pylons. Usually in small

groups as recorded by Day (1975). Up to 39 were recorded during CWAC. Fifty-five were seen at Koppieskraal on 28 August 2019 and over 70 were counted for the day. Breeding has been reported for May and December (Day 1975, BIRP 2012).

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
59	4	17*



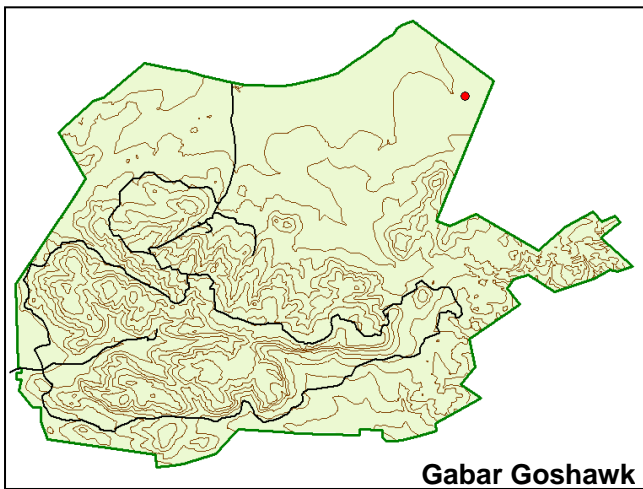
Goshawk, Gabar

Melierax gabar

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Vagrant. Record for September during BIRP. We saw a melanistic individual attempting to raid Southern Masked Weaver nests at the ruined Koppieskraal homestead on 29 January 2022.

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
1	<1	0



Goshawk, Pale Chanting
Melierax canorus

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

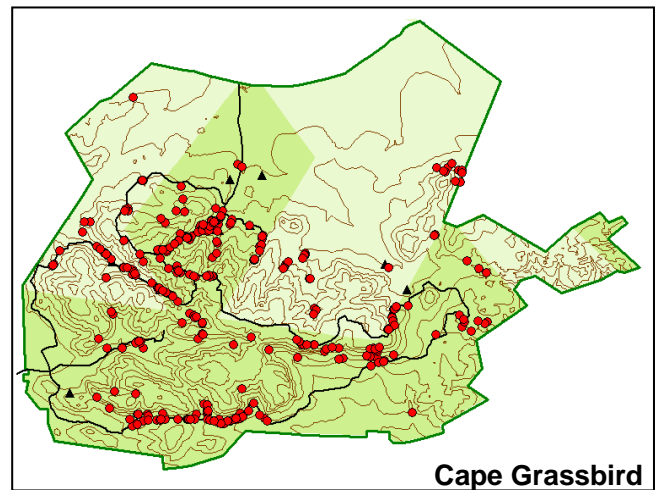
Vagrant. One was seen by CWJ in sweet thorn savannah between Wolwekloof and Schoongezicht on 1 July 2014. There are no further records for the reserve, but R. Deysel saw one along the Blesbokspruit in Heidelberg on 12 March 2023.

Grassbird, Cape
Sphenoeacus afer

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Resident; has bred. Widespread but most common in steep-slope grassland. Usually solitary, occasionally two or three nearby. Breeding reported by Day (1975) for February. One was ringed on 14 October 2000 at Evergreen Ranch and a second in the aloe forest near Kareekloof on 29 August 2006 (SAFRING), both areas where this species, today, is uncommon. Day (1975) noted a preference for kloof bush.

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
89	38	42*

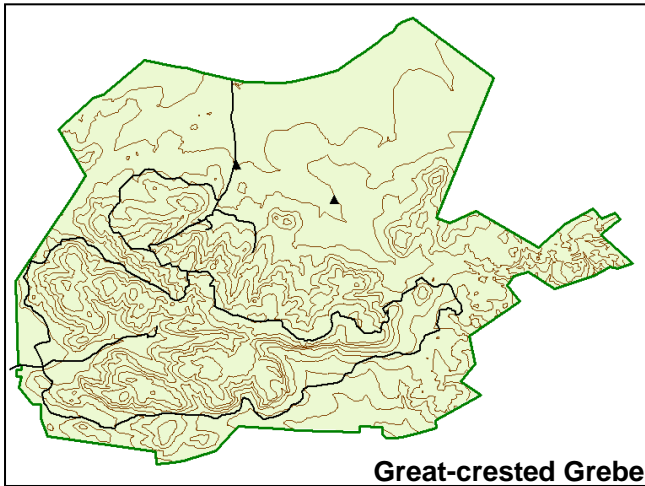


Grebe, Great Crested
Podiceps cristatus

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Vagrant. Restricted to dams on the northern extension. Recorded only four times during BIRP and most recently seen within the reserve on 25 October 2013. There were 17 records for three pentads that overlap the reserve during SABAP2, most recently on 7 July 2023. Up to two were counted during CWAC.

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
0	2	0



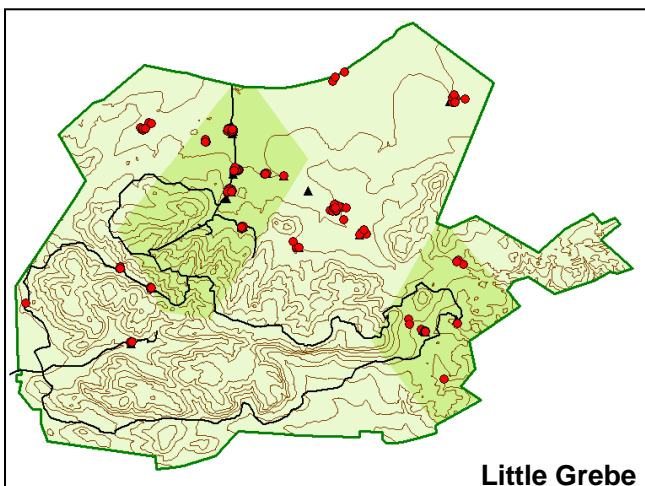
Grebe, Little

Tachybaptus ruficollis

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Breeding resident. Widespread, found on large and small dams. Solitary, in pairs and small groups (≤ 9). Up to 28 recorded during CWAC. A nest with eggs was observed 28 February 2022 and adults were seen with young in February, April, October, and November of the same year. Breeding was also recorded for January, July, and December (BIRP 2012).

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
76	50	47*



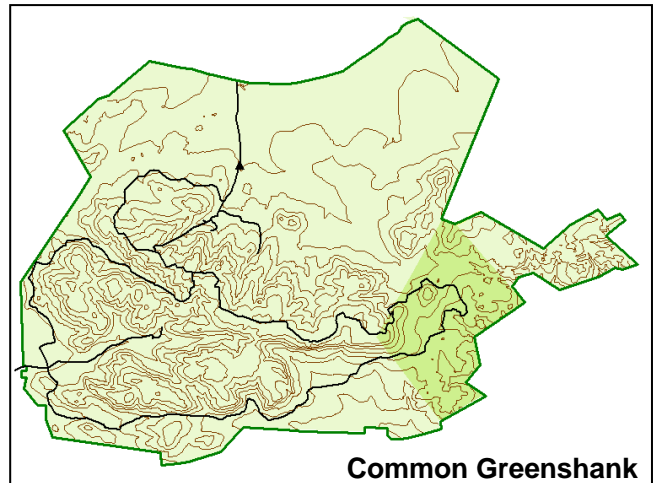
Greenshank, Common

Tringa nebularia

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Vagrant. Day (1975) recorded individuals on several dams in November 1970 and there were eight subsequent sightings during BIRP. Seen by reserve staff on 27 July 2005, 18 January 2006, and 15 December 2006 and by CWJ on 16 February 2016. There were 39 records for six pentads that overlap the reserve during SABAP2, most recently on 7 November 2021. Never recorded during CWAC.

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
1	4	3*



Guineafowl, Helmeted

Numida meleagris

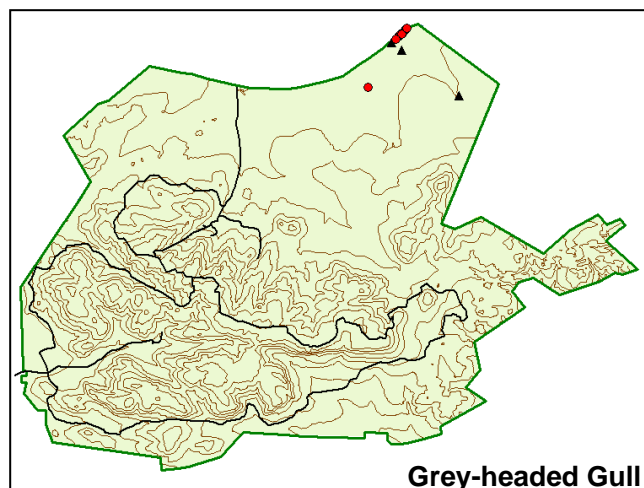
J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Breeding resident. Widespread but absent from rocky shrubland and rare in summit montane grassland. Solitary, in pairs or small groups, but larger flocks

(≤80) seen occasionally during June-October. Day (1975) frequently encountered large flocks (≤100). Up to 122 recorded during CAR. Adults with young were recorded in March to May and there are reports of breeding in February (BIRP 2012) and December (Day 1975). Individuals with orange feet seen in a flock near the Diepkloof gate on 5 April 2022 may indicate interbreeding with domesticated guineafowl. Of the almost 800 ringed during 1971-1976 seven were recovered dead (2 days-5 months later) and one was recaptured after almost 2 years. All were in the same area where they were originally trapped (SAFRING).

commonly seen foraging across the R550 at the Platkop landfill site. A flock of ten recorded on 11 August 2022 was larger than any recorded during CWAC.

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
8	2	0



Hamerkop

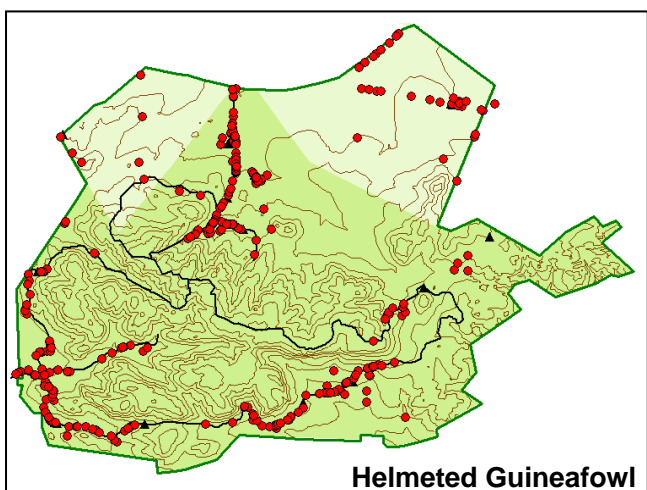
Scopus umbretta

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Vagrant; has bred. Recorded for all months, but rarely in recent years. As observed by Day (1975) there are old nests in various locations (e.g., near Feeshuis) which suggests that breeding has taken place. The most recent sighting was of an individual flushed from the marshy edge of a dam southeast of Mayfair on 9 June 2023.

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
1	16	22*

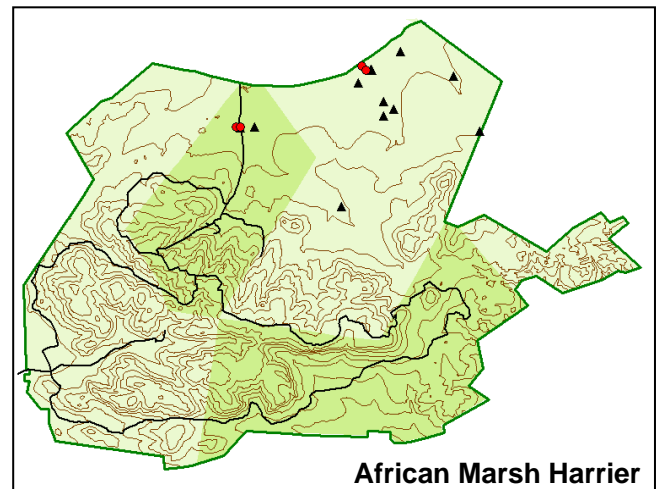
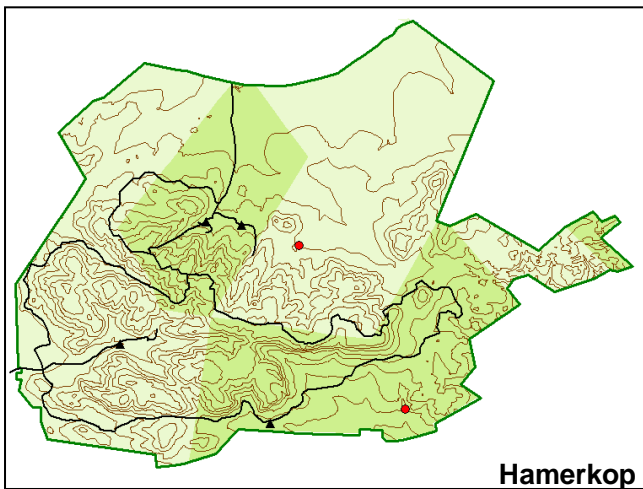
REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
96	73	72*



Gull, Grey-headed *Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus*

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Erratic visitor. Restricted to wetlands and plains grassland on the north-eastern corner of the extension. More



Harrier, African Marsh
Circus ranivorus EN, LC

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Erratic visitor. Forages over open grassy wetlands and reed-fringed dams on the northern extension. Mostly solitary but a pair was recorded in May 2014. The only breeding record is for the Elandsvlakte wetland in October 1973 (Day 1975). The extent of suitable breeding and foraging habitat under protection has increased considerably with the incorporation of low-lying areas to the north of the ridge. The absence of recent records for Elandsvlakte may be due to the sustained high ungulate grazing pressure in this area.

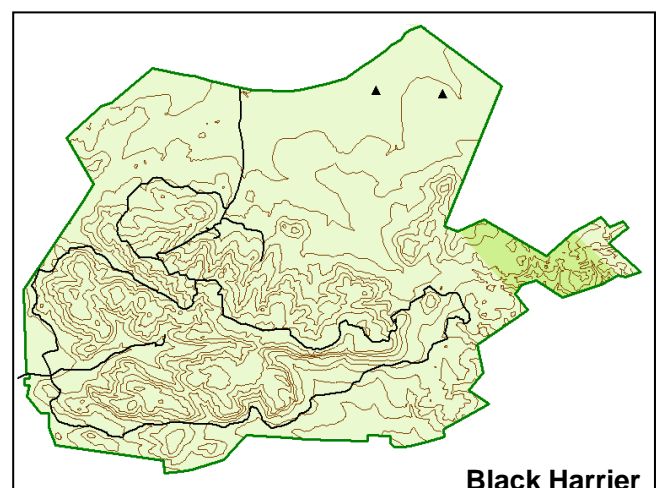
Harrier, Black
Circus maurus EN, EN

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Vagrant. Where noted, sightings were of individuals over plains grassland and old lands. Recorded by S. Wolff in the east of the reserve in August 1973 (Day 1975). There were two further sightings for June and December during BIRP. Our observations were on 11 July 2013 and 21 June 2016.

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
0	1	0

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
3	<1	4



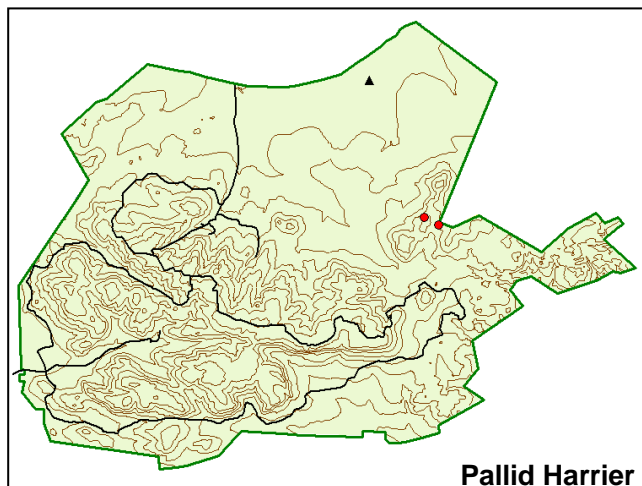
Harrier, Montagu's

Circus pygargus

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Vagrant. Scant habitat information but seen once over plains grassland and old lands. Solitary. Reported for September during BIRP. Subsequently recorded by D. Koen on 6 December 2005 and 18 January 2006, and by us on 13 February 2016.

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
1	<1	0



Hawk, African Harrier

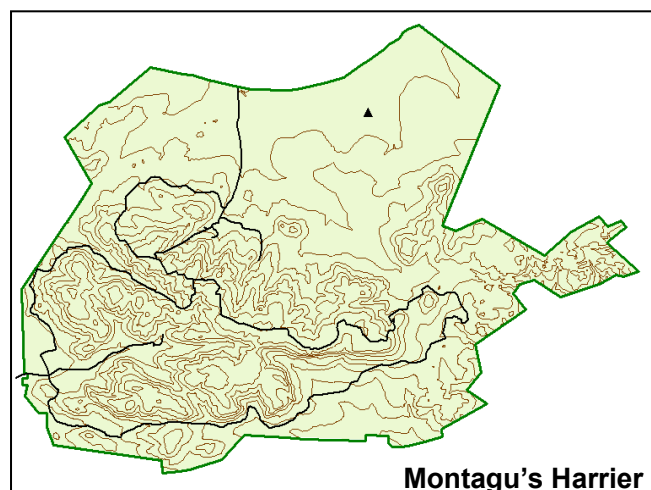
Polyboroides typus

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Vagrant. Found over summit montane grassland and kloof bush. Solitary. Seen on 14 June 2007 by CWJ, on 20 August 2008 by C. Birss and by us on 28 July 2015, 27 September 2018, and 26 April 2021. The last individual appeared to be foraging for lizards in rocky grassland along the crest of the ridge.

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
3	0	0

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
0	<1	0

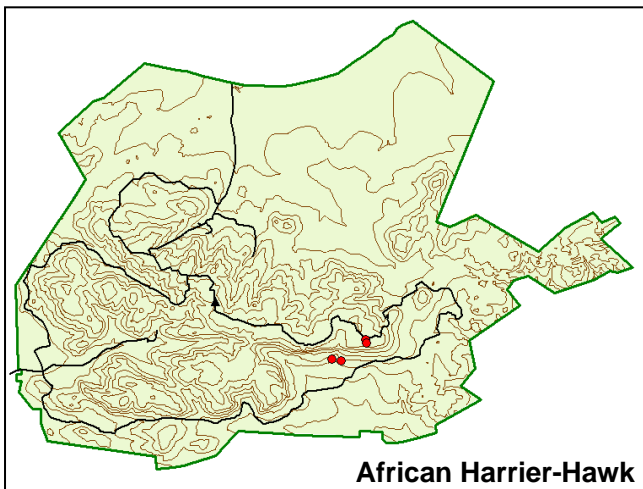


Harrier, Pallid

Circus macrourus NT, NT

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Vagrant. Seen over a wetland and steep-slope grassland. Solitary. Reported for December during BIRP. An adult was subsequently recorded on 15 January 2010 and a suspected immature on 29 November 2021.

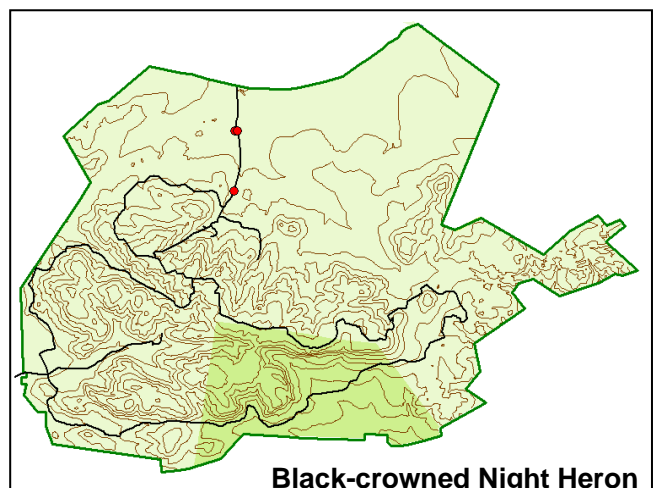


Heron, Black-crowned Night
Nyctocorax nycticorax

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Vagrant. Restricted to dams on the northern extension now, Day (1975) includes a record for Elandsvlakte in 1970. Three were recording on 14 February 2007 during CWAC. Subsequent sightings were of individuals on 29 October 2021 and 10 November 2022.

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
3	0	3*



Heron, Black-headed
Ardea melanocephala

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

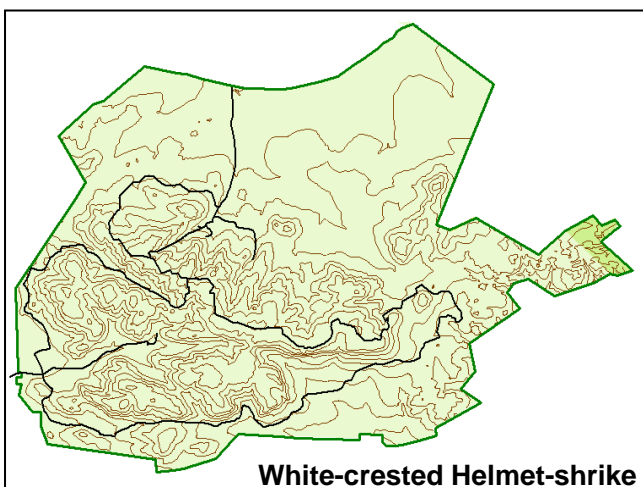
Visitor. Recorded throughout the year but not known to breed. Widespread but mainly seen in and around wetlands within plains grassland and old lands. Usually solitary, in pairs or small groups. Ninety recorded in recently burnt grassland adjacent to the

Helmet-shrike, White-crested
Prionops plumatus

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

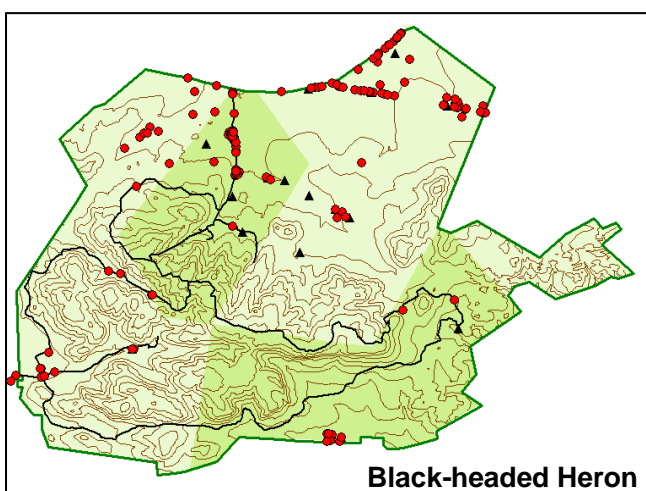
Vagrant. Recorded at Heidelberg Kloof in 1970 during a widespread irruption of this species on the Highveld (Day 1975) with one subsequent record during BIRP. Not recorded for any pentads that overlap the reserve during SABAP2.

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
0	<1	5*



Eendracht Road on 11 August 2022 exceptional. One killed by truck on the R550 on 9 November 2022 was removed by a passer-by for consumption.

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
61	16	20



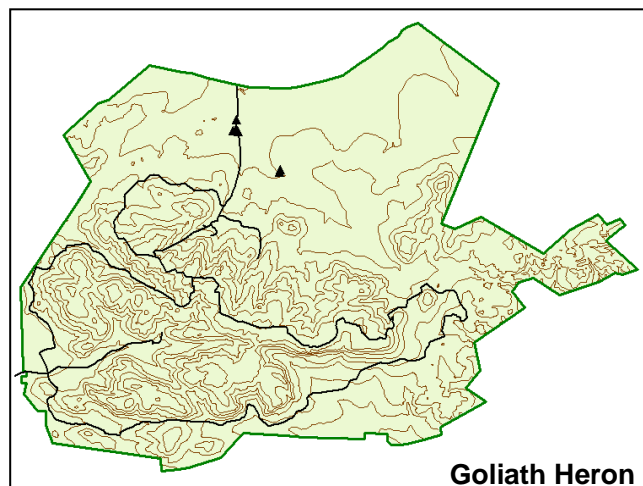
Heron, Goliath

Ardea goliath

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Vagrant. Restricted to dams on the northern extension. Solitary. Sighting by CWJ on 29 November 2000 possibly the first. Rarely observed thereafter with sightings on 28 July 2016 west of the Diepkloof gate, 7 June 2023 at Koppieskraal and 2 November 2023 west of Mayfair. All outside of our main survey period.

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
0	2	0



Heron, Green-backed (Striated)

Butorides striata

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Vagrant. There was one record for BIRP during December and three for two pentads that overlap the reserve during SABAP2, most recently on 27 September 2022.

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
0	<1	0

Heron, Grey

Ardea cinerea

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Visitor. Recorded in most months but only during 31% of waterbird counts and not known to have bred. Restricted to man-made dams. Solitary as noted by Day (1975). Up to three recorded during CWAC.

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
12	15	13*

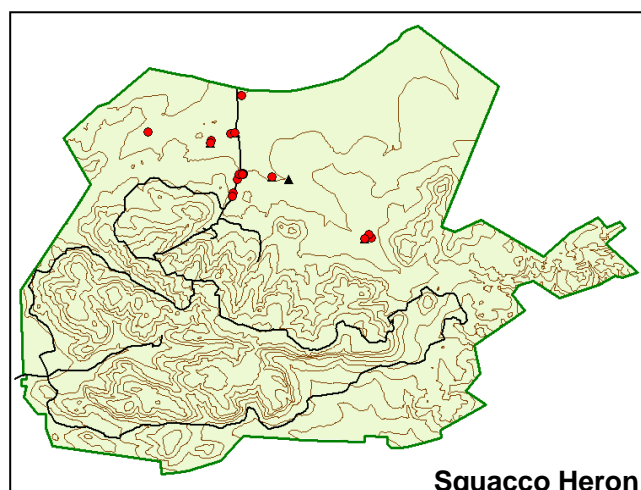
Heron, Squacco

Ardeola ralloides

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Visitor. Recorded throughout the year but only on 29% of waterbird counts and no record of breeding. Largely restricted to small dams and wetlands with reeds and other emergent vegetation. Often solitary but occasionally up to three together. Up to three recorded during CWAC.

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
16	3	0

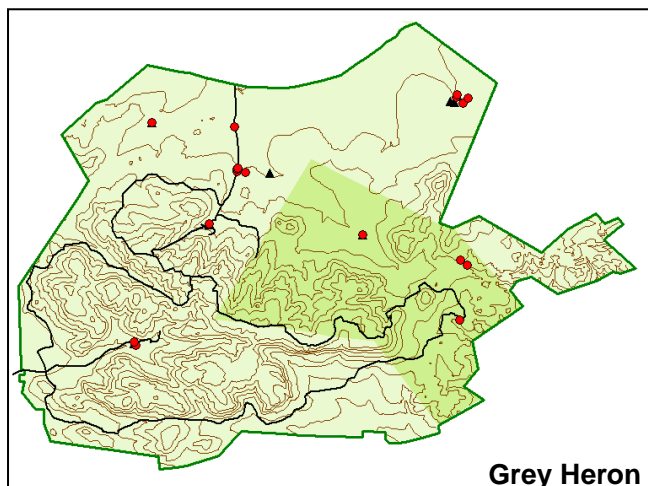


Hobby, Eurasian

Falco subbuteo

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Vagrant. We saw two on 20 February 2020, one perched on a powerline in plains grassland in the north-west and a second over rocky shrubland near Duiker hut. Solitary. One was ringed along the short tourist route on 2 February 2010 (SAFRING).



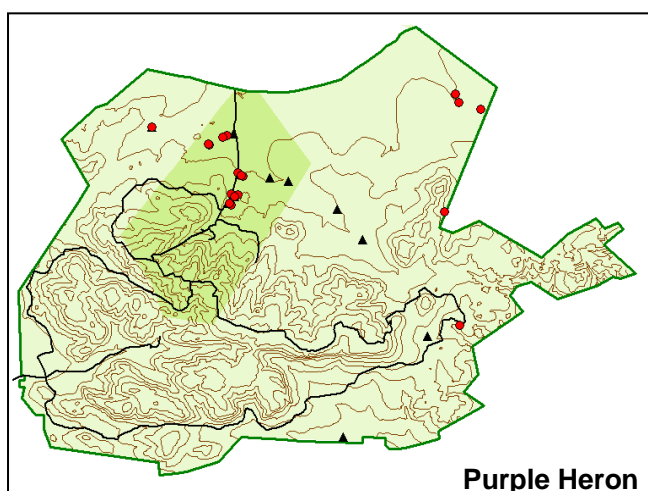
Heron, Purple

Ardea purpurea

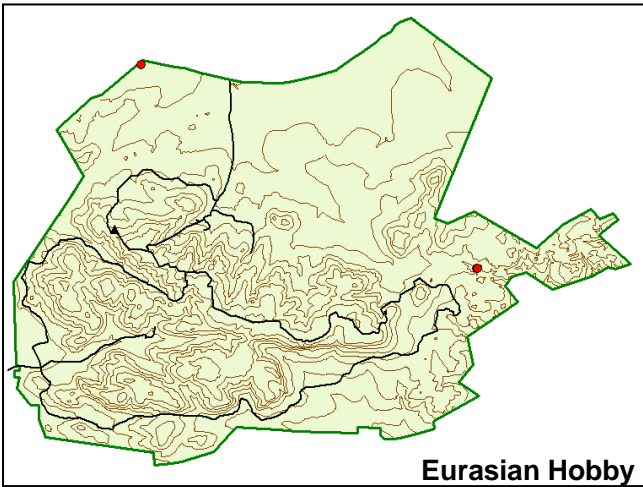
J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Visitor. Recorded in all months but only on 46% of waterbird counts and no evidence of breeding. Widespread at streams and wetlands with tall emergent vegetation. Usually solitary but Day (1975) recorded three together at Evergreen Ranch in 1971. Up to three recorded during CWAC.

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
14	4	3*



REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
1	0	0

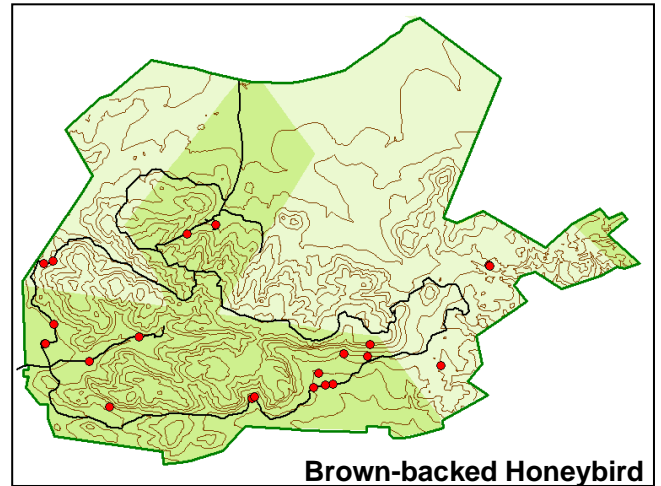


Honeybird, Brown-backed
Prodotiscus regulus

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Visitor; may breed. Recorded throughout the year but not in all months. Probably overlooked as noted by Day (1975) who also included records for May and August. Widespread in wooded habitat on the original reserve. Solitary or in pairs. Display flight observed on 10 November 2022.

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
18	<1	10*

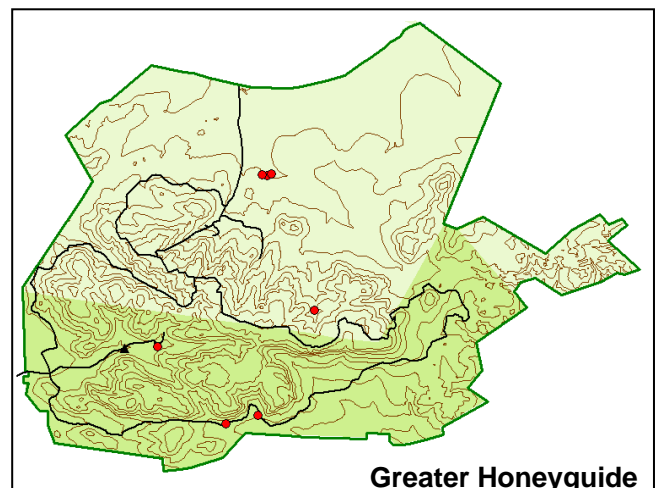


Honeyguide, Greater
Indicator indicator

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Probable resident. Recorded throughout the year but not in all months. Day (1975) also included records for March and April. Usually detected on distinctive, 'Victor', call. Mainly heard from wooded drainages but also found amongst mature alien trees at Mayfair. A wide range of potential hosts occur on the reserve, but breeding has yet to be confirmed.

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
9	4	12*



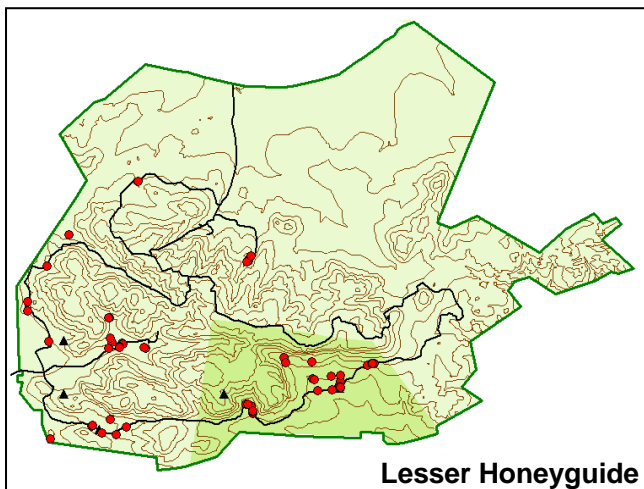
Honeyguide, Lesser

Indicator minor

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Resident; breeds. Widespread in wooded habitats. Usually solitary, a pair once. Mainly detected on distinctive and far-carrying call. A juvenile was seen on 20 May 2022. Twelve were ringed of which one, captured in the aloe forest in the Kareekloof was recaptured in the same area approximately a year later (SAFRING).

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
33	12	8*



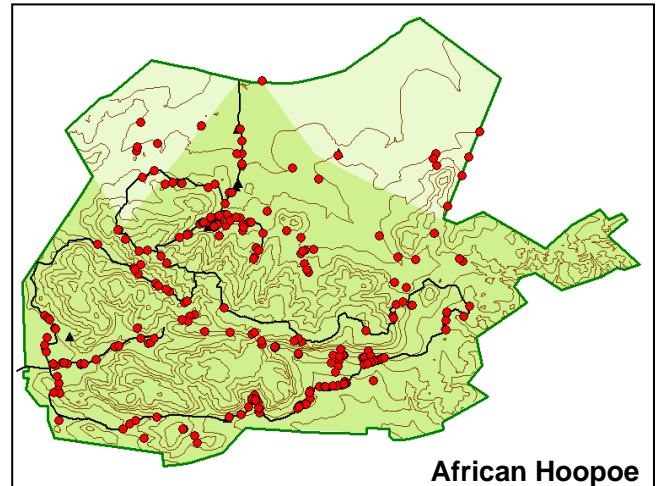
Hoopoe, African

Upupa africana

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Breeding resident. Widespread in wooded habitat. Usually solitary, less often in pairs, three once. A juvenile was seen with its parents on 29 November 2021.

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
82	55	46*



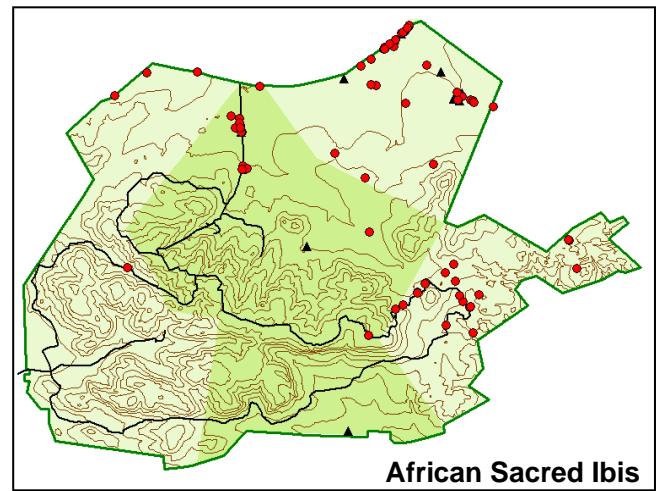
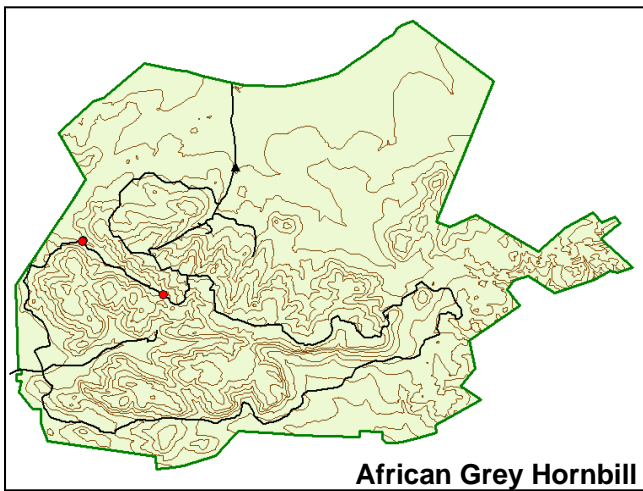
Hornbill, African Grey

Lophoceros nasutus

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Vagrant. Solitary. Recorded for August during BIRP with subsequent records for the Diepkloof area on 14 September 2005 and 3 November 2011 and for Blesboklaagte on 25 and 26 October 2018.

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
1	<1	0



Ibis, African Sacred
Threskiornis aethiopicus

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

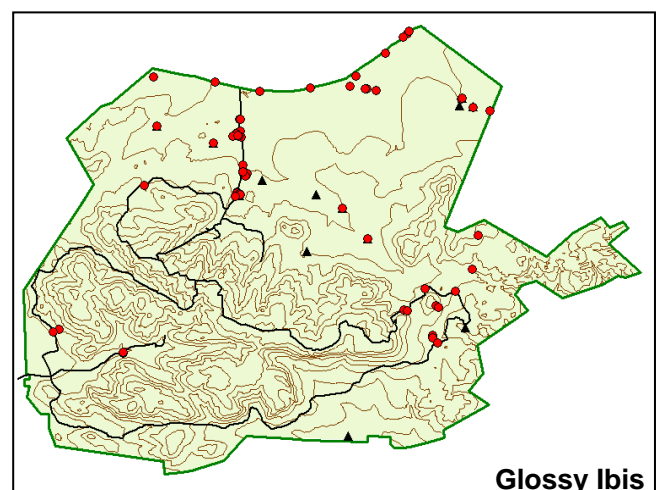
Visitor; has bred. Recorded in all months but only on 17% of waterbird counts. Largely restricted to the wetlands of the northern extension. Sightings elsewhere were mainly of birds in flight. More common and abundant in the surrounding landscape, especially at the Platkop landfill site and in the adjacent wetlands. Three hundred were counted in recently burnt grassland on the extension on 11 August 2022. Day (1975) recorded three breeding pairs at Evergreen Ranch in January 1972, but also noted an apparent preference for farmland and wetlands outside the reserve.

Ibis, Glossy
Plegadis falcinellus

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Visitor. Recorded throughout the year but only on 40% of waterbird counts. Widespread, but mainly forages around the edges of dams on the extension. Solitary and in small groups (≤ 5) but larger flocks seen in flight over the reserve (≤ 50). Up to 88 recorded during CWAC.

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
34	10	0

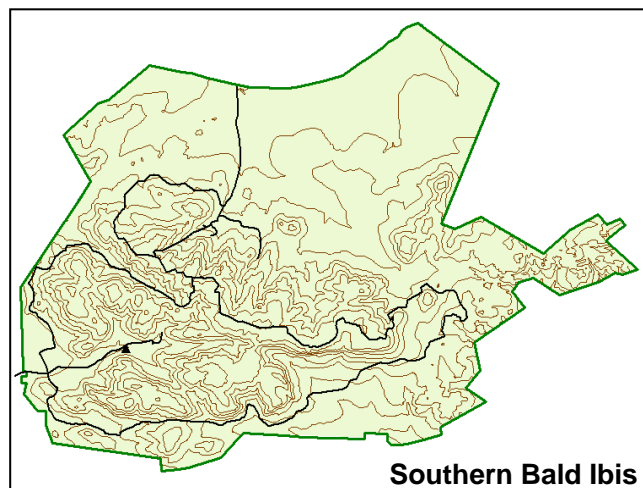


REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
46	12	20*

Ibis, Hadeda (Hadada)
Bostrychia hagedash

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Breeding resident. Widespread and found in all habitats. Solitary, in pairs or small groups (≤ 10). Nineteen recorded together on 11 August 2022 considered unusual. Up to 55 recorded during CWAC. Copulation observed on 11 August 2022. S. Wolff reported breeding in November (Day 1975).

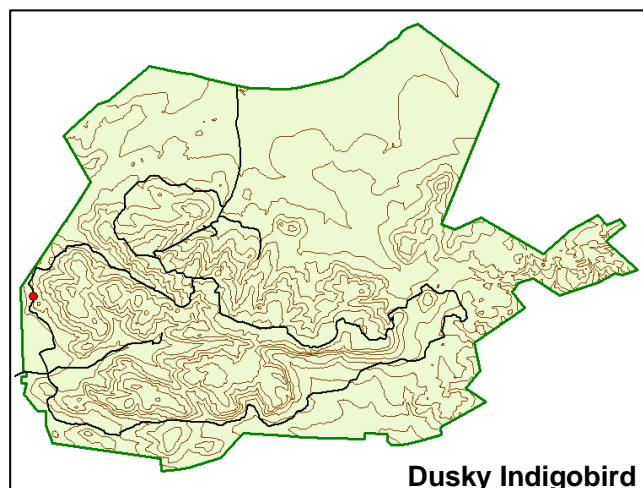


Indigobird, Dusky
Vidua funerea

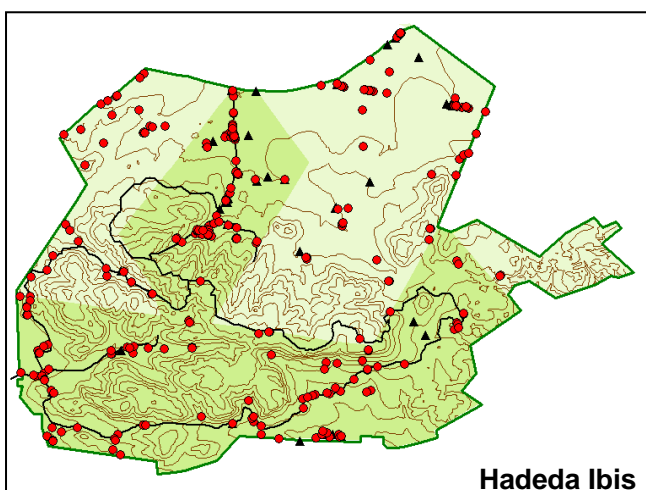
J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Vagrant. Reported for December and January during BIRP. We saw a single male in sweet thorn savannah on 28 February 2022, the only other record being for pentads that overlap the reserve during SABAP2. Its host, the African Firefinch, is also rarely recorded.

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
1	1	0



REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
88	55	20*



Ibis, Southern Bald
Geronticus calvus VU, VU

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Vagrant. An individual was recorded at a dam near the entrance to the Kareekloof resort by J. Hennop on 14 September 2005. Not recorded for any pentads that overlap the reserve during SABAP2.

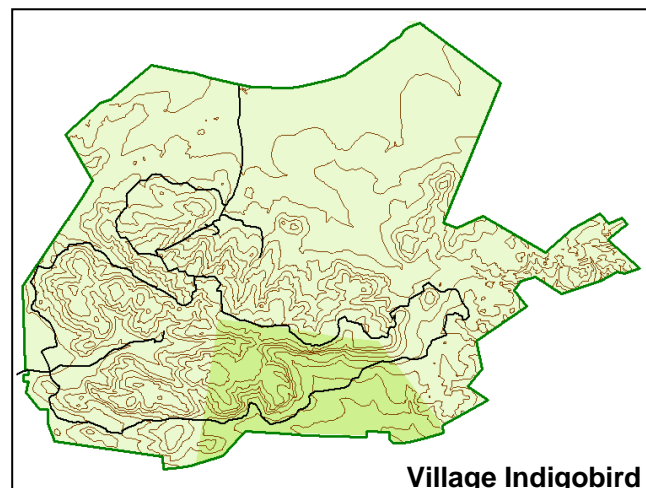
Indigobird, Purple
Vidua purpurascens

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

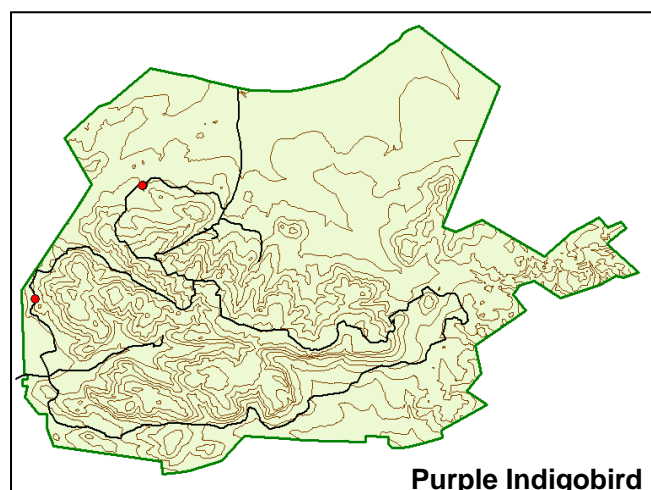
Vagrant. We recorded a male in sweet thorn savannah on 17 March 2022 and a pair in a wooded drainage line on 25 January 2023. Its host, the Jameson's Firefinch, is now much more common within the reserve than it was historically, so sightings of this brood parasite could increase.

host, the Red-billed Firefinch, was rarely seen by (Day 1975) or since.

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
0	1	0



REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
3	0	0



Indigobird, Village
Vidua chalybeata

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

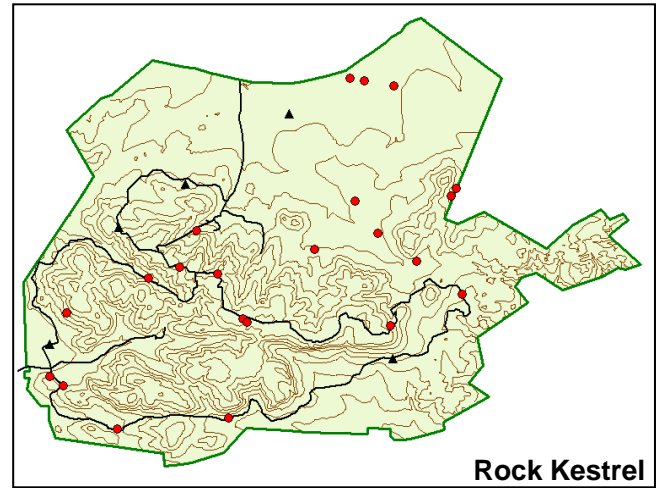
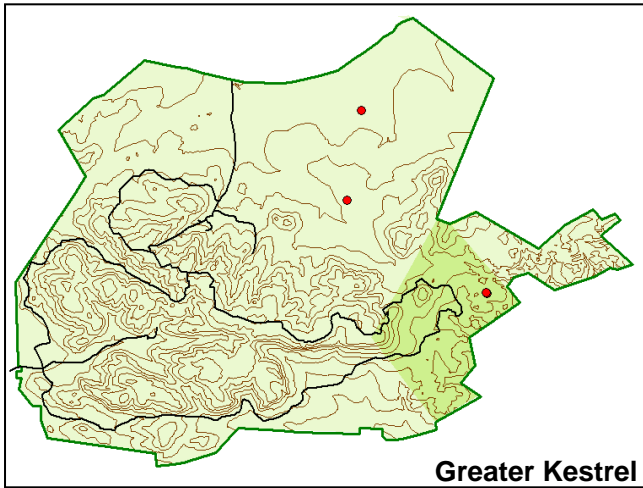
Vagrant. S. Wolff recorded a pair at Elandsvlakte in December 1974 and January 1975 (Day 1975). There were two subsequent records during BIRP and two from two pentads that overlap the reserve during SABAP2; most recently seen on 7 February 2015. Its

Kestrel, Greater
Falco rupicoloides

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Visitor. Restricted to plains grassland and old lands. Solitary. Recorded only once by Day (1975) over Boschhoek in May 1971 and once in January during BIRP. Our most recent sighting was on 19 August 2021.

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
4	<1	2*



Kestrel, Lesser

Falco naumanni

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Vagrant. There were ten sightings during BIRP and ten for six pentads that overlap the reserve during SABAP2. Most recently seen on 4 February 2023.

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
0	5	0

Kestrel, Rock

Falco rupicolus

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Probable resident. Widespread, found mostly in open grassland and rarely over sweet thorn savannah. Solitary, pair once. No breeding has been recorded but nests in potholes and deep cracks are easily overlooked.

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
17	14	0

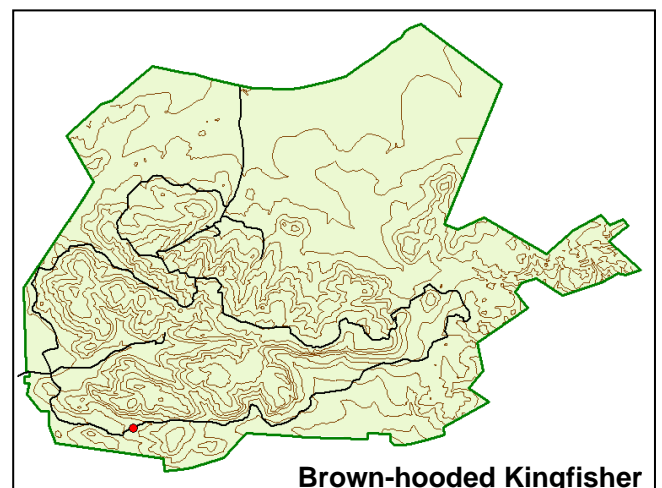
Kingfisher, Brown-hooded

Halcyon albiventris

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Vagrant. Reported for August during BIRP. Subsequently recorded by ID on the edge of the sweet thorn savannah on 21 February 2021. There were a further three records for three pentads that overlap the reserve during SABAP2. Most recently seen on 15 May 2021.

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
1	<1	0

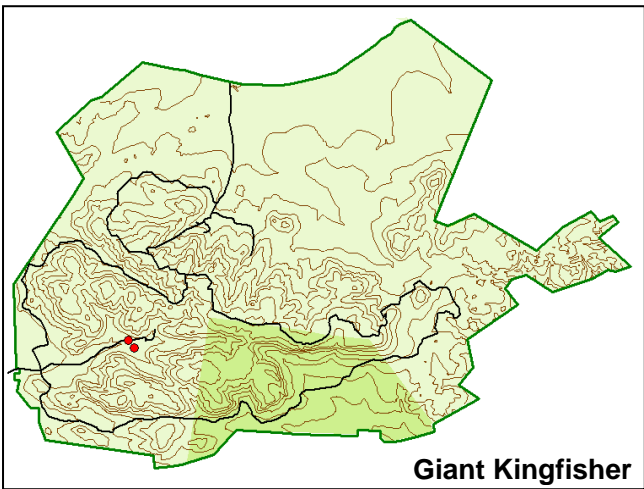


Kingfisher, Giant
Megaceryle maxima

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Vagrant. One was seen at Elandsvlakte by S. Wolff in the 1970s (Day 1975). Subsequently recorded for the Diepkloof area on 30 November 2000 by CWJ and three further times during BIRP. Our most recent sighting was of an individual perched on a dead tree in a dam at the entrance to the derelict Kareekloof resort on 1 December 2022.

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
1	2	0



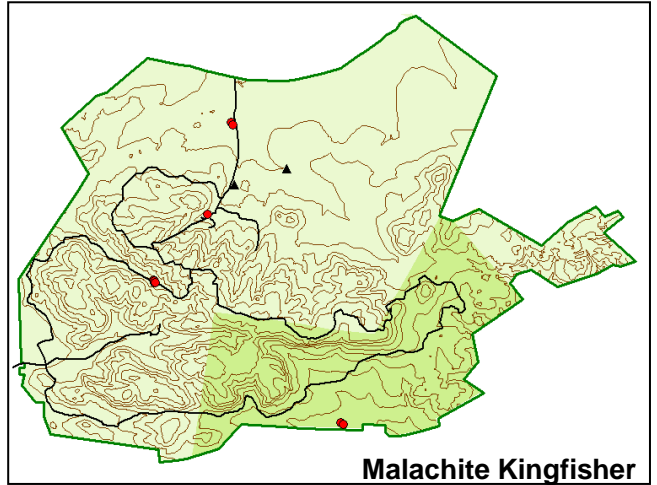
Kingfisher, Malachite
Alcedo cristata

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Visitor. Solitary. Only recorded on 11% of waterbird counts but easily overlooked. Day (1975) includes a record for April. Found at small dams and ponds with open water and a fringe of trees or emergent vegetation. No

known suitable breeding habitat. Up to two recorded during CWAC.

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
4	3	3*

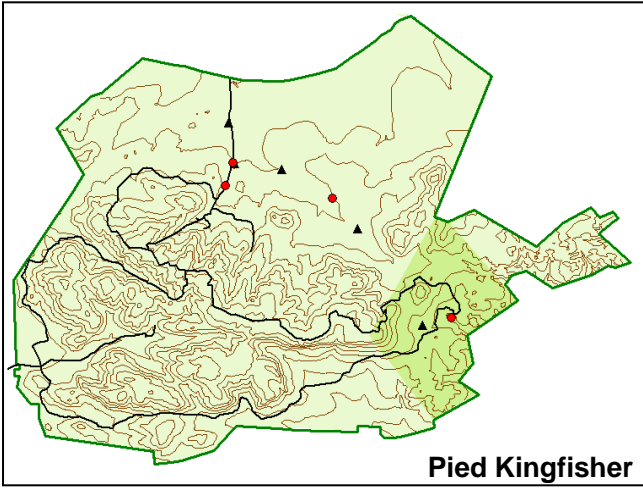


Kingfisher, Pied
Ceryle rudis

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Visitor. Only recorded on 14% of waterbird counts. Restricted to dams in plains grassland and old lands. Usually solitary, three once. Day (1975) reported a pair. Most recently seen south of Diepkloof gate on 16 November 2023. Up to four recorded during CWAC.

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
4	5	7*



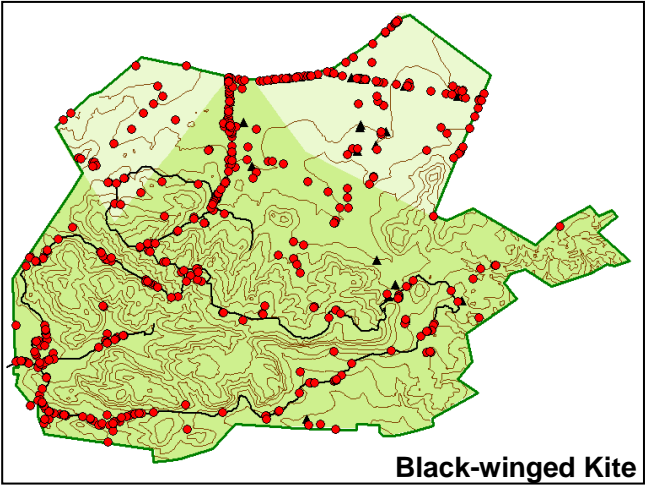
Resident, breeds. Found throughout the reserve and in all habitats. Most common in plains grassland and old lands and sweet thorn savannah. Solitary, in pairs and up to four together at nests. Chicks were recorded during March-May and juveniles in September-December. Up to 14 were recorded during CAR.

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
100	62	48*

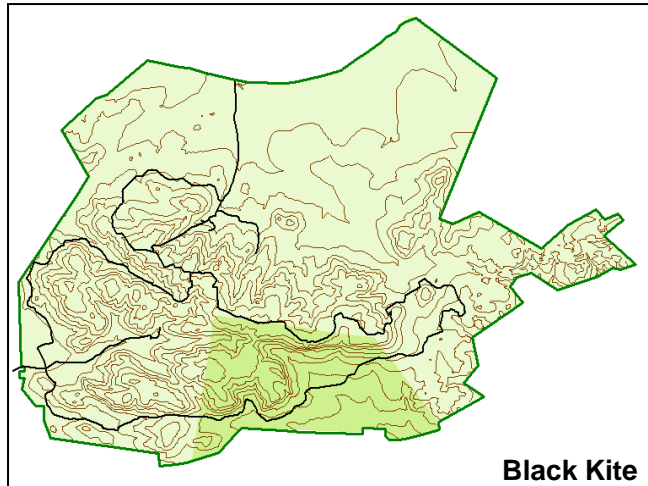
Kite, Black

Milvus migrans

Vagrant. Four were seen over Elandsvlakte in December 1970 (Day 1975). Subsequently recorded on 24 December 2021, the only record for a pentad that overlaps the reserve during SABAP2.



REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
0	0	2*



Kite, Yellow-billed

Milvus aegyptius

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

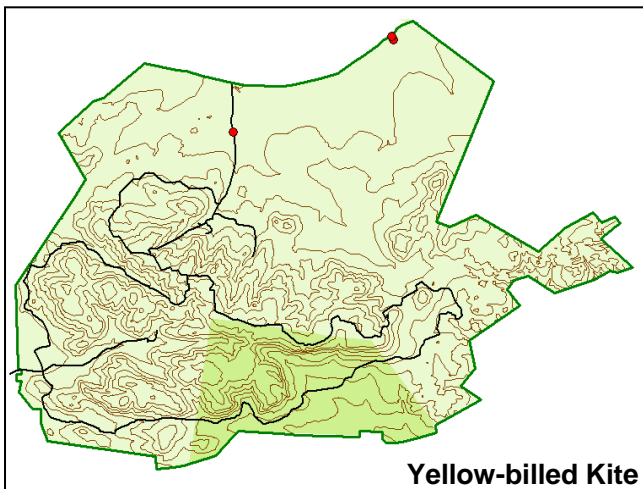
Intra-African migrant. Found in plains grassland and old lands on the northern extension. Solitary. Our sightings were on 13 February 2015, 19 March 2021 and 21 September 2021. Day (1975) recorded an individual over Wetter in January 1971.

Kite, Black-winged

Elanus caeruleus

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
3	0	2*

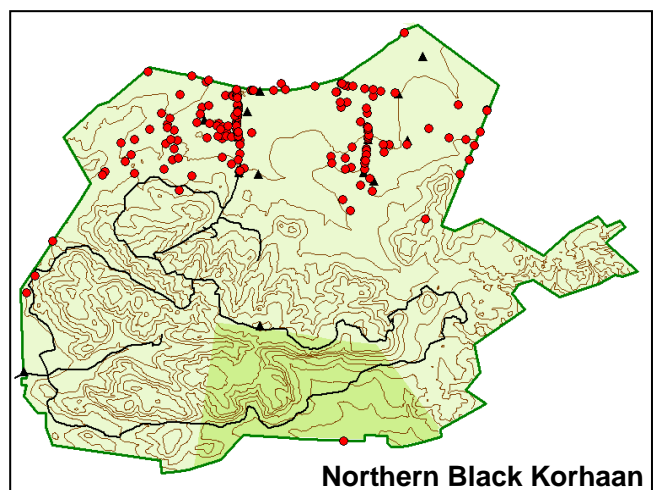


Korhaan, Northern Black
Afrotis fraoides

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Resident; probably breeds. Mainly found in plains grassland and old lands on the northern extension. Solitary but several males were often seen displaying in the same area. S. Wolff only recorded one at Elandsvlakte in 1972, but the species was apparently more common west of the reserve at the time (Day 1975). Up to 19 were recorded during CAR.

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
79	3	0



Korhaan, White-bellied
Eupodotis senegalensis

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

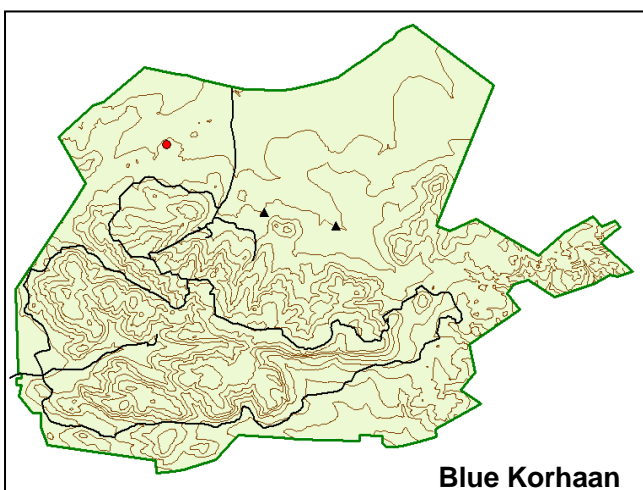
Vagrant. A pair was seen at Schoongezicht in December 1970 (Day 1975) and there was a single record during BIRP. Subsequently recorded along low hills to the southwest of the

Korhaan, Blue
Eupodotis caerulescens LC, NT

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

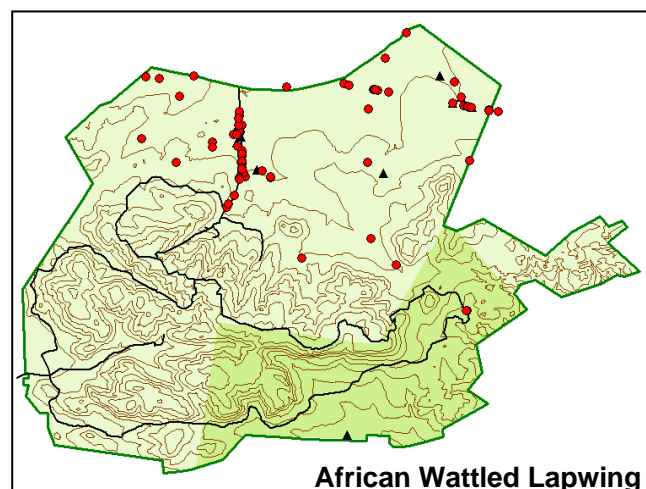
Vagrant. Restricted to plains grassland and old lands on the northern extension. Solitary or in pairs. Individuals were recorded by L. du Toit on 21 November 2005 and A. Kemp on 24 June 2009. D. Koen and L. du Toit saw a pair on 19 July 2018.

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
1	0	0



Diepkloof gate on 22 February 2006, 7 December 2007, 11 November 2008, 13 June 2013, and 12 July 2017. D. Koen reported a possible sighting for the same area in October 2023. As noted by Day (1975) this species may be overlooked.

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
41	5	12

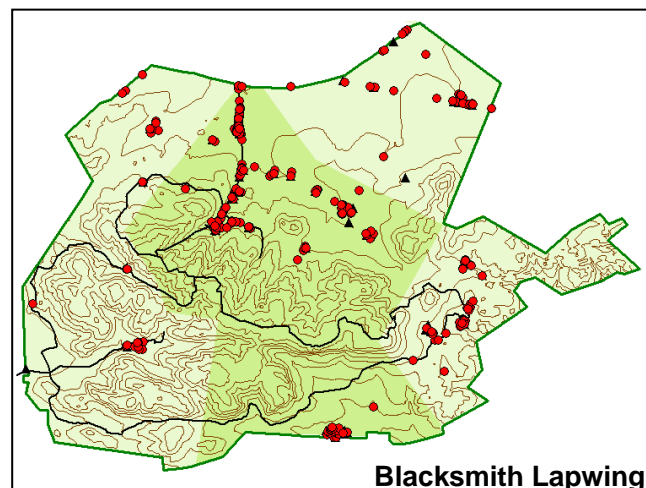


Lapwing, Blacksmith
Vanellus armatus

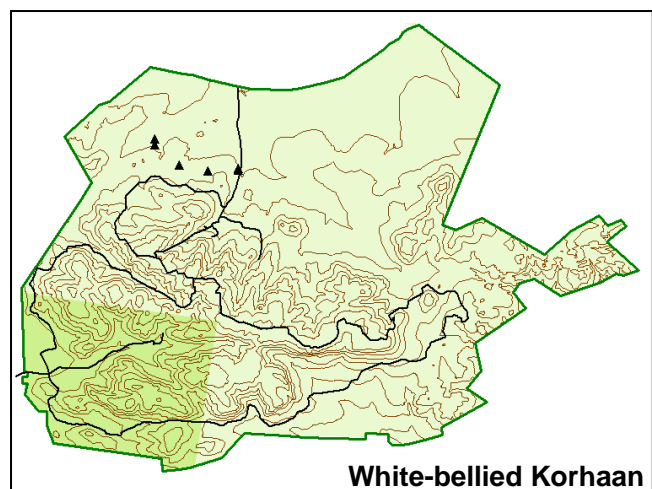
J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Breeding resident. Widespread, mainly found in plains grassland and old lands, often close to water. Solitary, in pairs or small groups (≤ 7). Parents were seen with young in October-December. Up to 59 recorded during CWAC.

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
93	76	16



REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
0	<1	2



Lapwing, African Wattled
Vanellus senegallus

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Resident; has bred. Found more frequently at wetlands and dams on the northern extension than within the original reserve, but it is still present in areas where pairs were reported by Day (1975). Solitary, in pairs or threes. Up to six were recorded during CWAC. One of a pair seen in short grassland near the Diepkloof gate in December 2022 appeared to be incubating. S. Wolff recorded breeding at the Elandsvlakte wetland in October 1973 (Day 1975).

Lapwing, Crowned

Vanellus coronatus

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Breeding resident. Widespread and found in diverse habitats, only absent from kloof bush. Solitary, in pairs and small groups (≤ 10). A nest with chicks was found on 10 November 2018 and parents were seen with young on 22 September and 19 November 2021. Breeding was previously reported during September-December (Day 1975, BIRP 2012). Rarely seen within the reserve by Day (1975) but more common in adjacent farmland to the north.

two pentads that overlap the reserve during SABAP2. The most recent record is for 23 June 2014.

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
0	<1	0

[No map]

Lark, Grey-backed Sparrow-

Eremopterix verticalis

Vagrant. There was a single record for the Eendracht Road on 23 June 2023 during a regional irruption of the species.

[No map]

Lark, Eastern Clapper

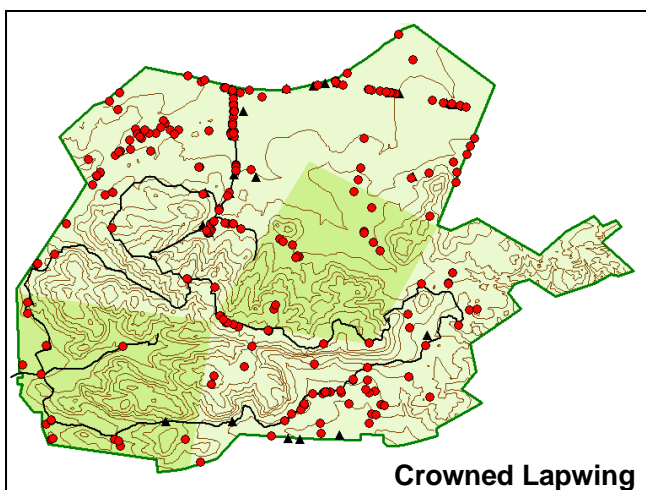
Mirafra fasciolata

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Breeding resident. Usually located on call and as noted by Day (1975) likely under-recorded outside of the breeding season. Widespread but mainly in grassland and rocky shrubland in the east. Often several males displaying in the same area. S. Wolff reported breeding during November and December (Day 1975). We noted a single juvenile on 17 March 2022.

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
37	29	4

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
84	69	12*

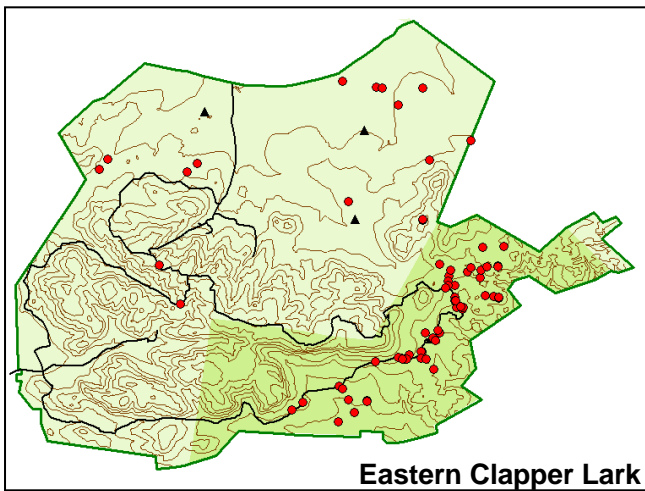


Lark, Chestnut-backed Sparrow-

Eremopterix leucotis

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Vagrant. There is a record for August during BIRP and for April and June for

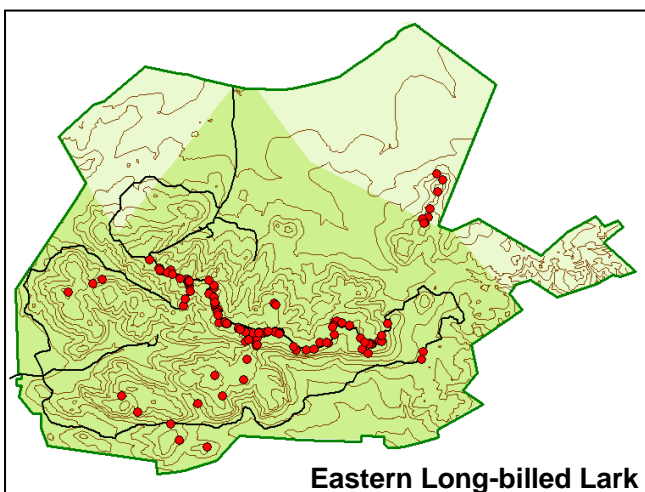


Lark, Eastern Long-billed
Certhilauda semitorquata

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Resident. Usually detected on call, a long whistle. Widespread but as noted by Day (1975), found mainly in summit montane grassland. Usually solitary but up to three have been recorded nearby.

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
51	46	32

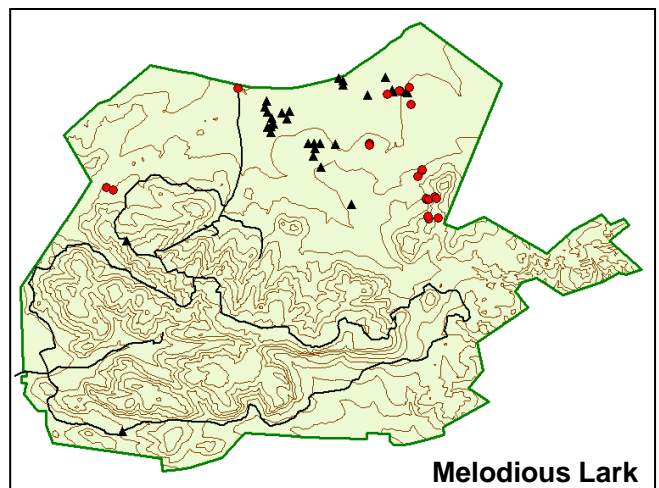


Lark, Melodious
Mirafrā cheniana

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Visitor. Recorded throughout the year but not in all months. Most easily detected when mimicking other bird species during aerial display. Utilises plains grassland and old lands (including areas that have been cut by grass harvesters) as well as steep-slope grassland. Often solitary but up to seven have been recorded in close proximity. Thirty-nine were recorded during targeted surveys on 13 November 2003 (density of 3.3 birds/ha).

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
13	2	0

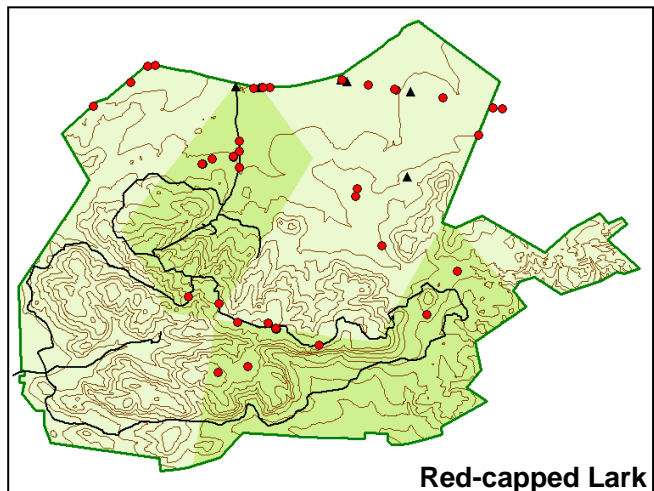


Lark, Pink-billed
Spizocorys conirostris

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Visitor; has bred. Recorded throughout the year but not in all months. Utilises

plains grassland and old lands. Usually Solitary but up to three have been seen together. Day (1975) did not indicate the number of sightings but noted that they were recorded 'quite frequently'. E. Marais observed nestlings being fed along the Eendracht Road on 14 June 2004 and S. Wolff recorded breeding in January.



Red-capped Lark

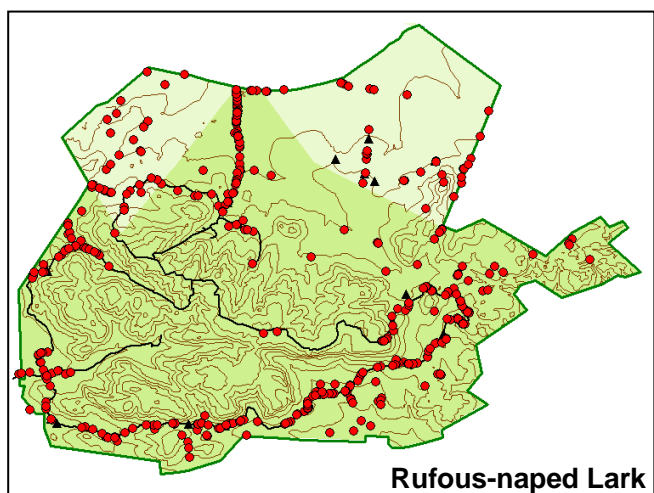
Lark, Rufous-naped

Mirafrā africana

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

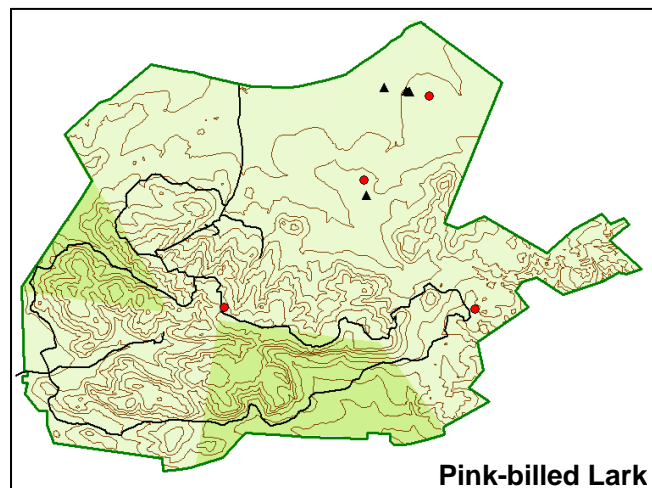
Breeding resident. Widespread, only absent from kloof bush and rare in summit montane grassland. Solitary, occasionally two. Juvenile recorded on 1 February 2022.

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
91	59	48*



Rufous-naped Lark

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
5	2	?



Pink-billed Lark

Lark, Red-capped

Calandrella cinerea

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Visitor. Recorded throughout the year but with 60% of sightings during the cool, dry months (May-August). Restricted to grassland with no obvious preference for altitude. Solitary, in pairs and small flocks (≤ 10). No reports of breeding despite ample suitable habitat.

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
30	10	10

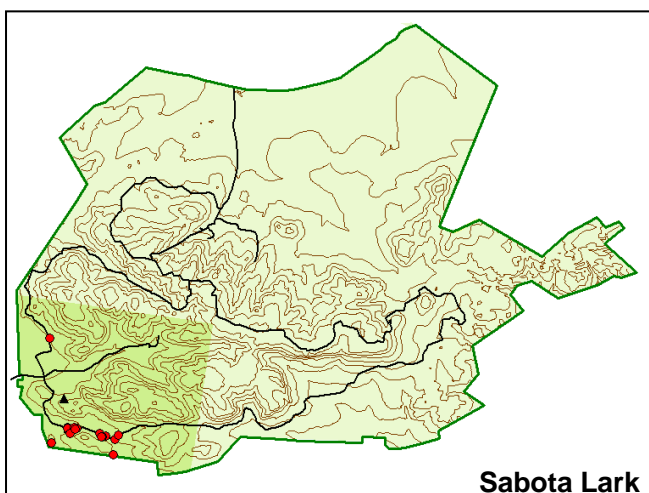
Lark, Sabota

Calendulauda sabota

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Probable resident. Recorded in all months but no evidence of breeding. Restricted to sweet thorn savannah. Solitary. One ringed in the Kareekloof on 26 June 2006 was subsequently recaptured in the same vicinity on 2 September 2011 (SAFRING).

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
17	11	8*



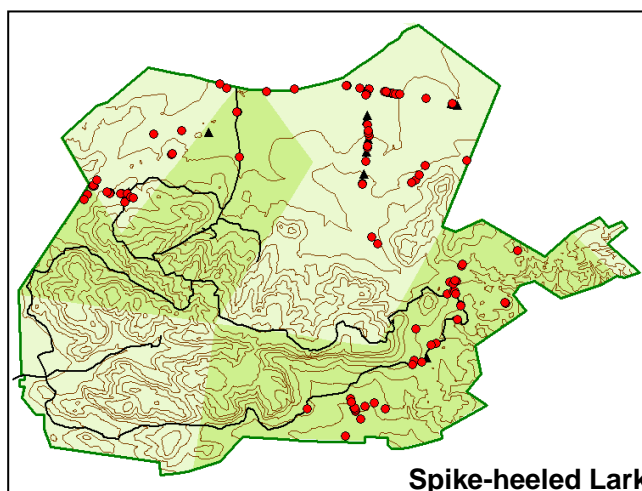
Lark, Spike-heeled

Chersomanes albofasciata

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Breeding resident. Largely restricted to plains grassland and old lands. Rarely solitary, mainly in pairs or small groups (≤ 6). A juvenile was seen with two adults on 1 February 2022. S. Wolff reported breeding in November and December (Day 1975).

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
54	26	44*



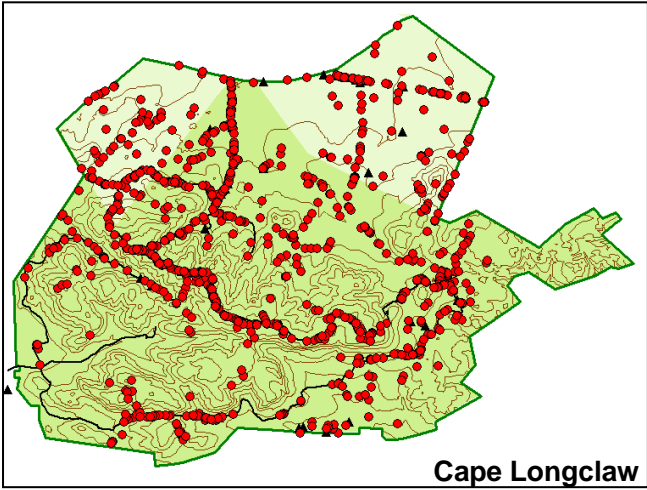
Longclaw, Cape

Macronyx capensis

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Resident; has bred. Widespread and found in grassland at all altitudes. Solitary or in pairs but up to seven sometimes foraging close together. Breeding reported for January and October-November (Day 1975, BIRP 2012). One was ringed near the Kareekloof gate on 30 June 2005 (SAFRING), an area for which we have few other records.

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
99	96	76*



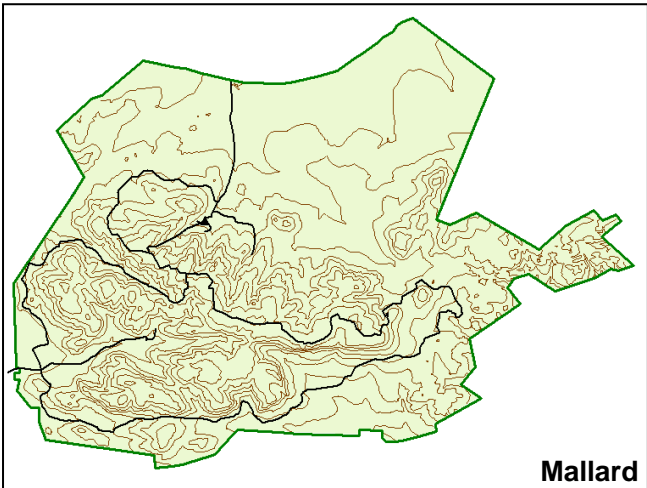
Cape Longclaw

Mallard

Anas platyrhynchos

Removed. Up to four domestic ducks were kept as part of the Diepkloof farm museum collection until 2009.

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
0	<1	0



Mallard

Mannikin, Bronze

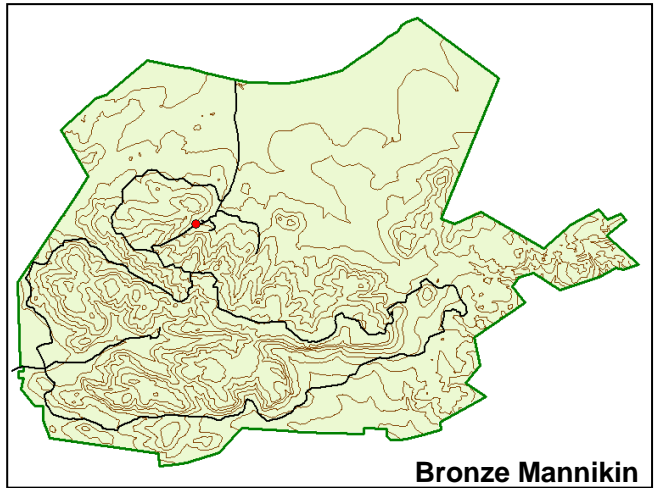
Lonchura cucullata

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Vagrant. A flock of 20 was seen in the Diepkloof on 23 May 2019, the only

recent record for the reserve. There were thirteen records for four pentads that overlap the reserve during SABAP2. Most recently on seen on 21 October 2023.

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
1	3	0



Bronze Mannikin

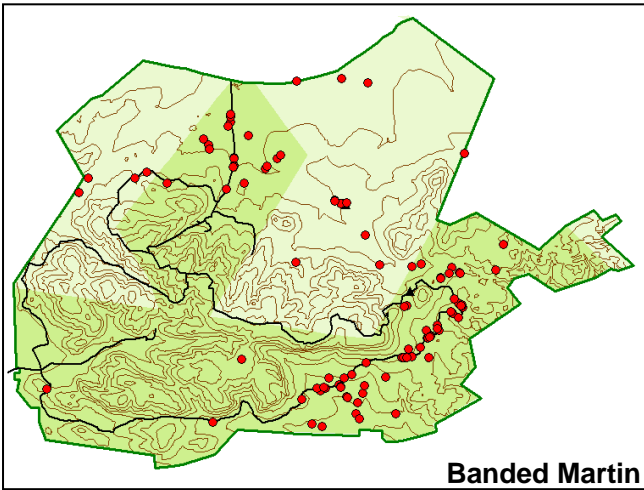
Martin, Banded

Riparia cincta

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Intra-African migrant; has bred. Widespread over open habitats including wetlands. Usually solitary or in small groups (≤ 10), but flocks of 18 and 30 seen perched together. Day (1975) suspected breeding to be taking place; burrows suitable for nesting remain plentiful.

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
39	25	22*



Palaearctic migrant. Widespread but absent from kloof bush and rocky shrubland. Solitary, in small groups (≤ 11) and larger flocks 50-60. Often with other aerial feeders. Day (1975) reported one instance of over-wintering.

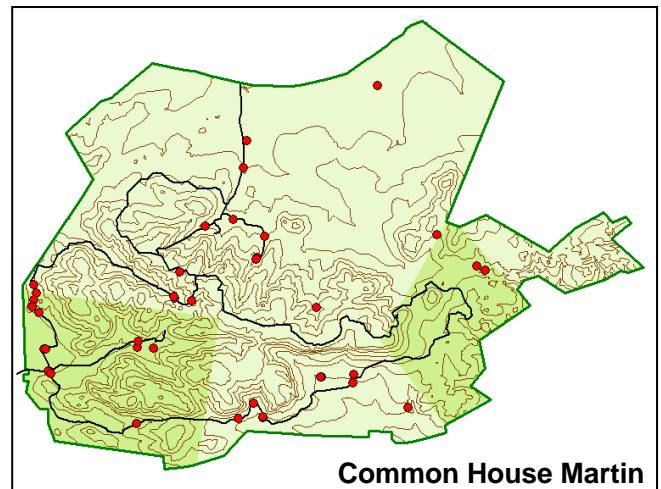
REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
22	6	6

Martin, Brown-throated
Riparia paludicola



Resident. Widespread but largely restricted to streams and wetlands. Solitary or in small groups (≤ 15), often in mixed flocks.

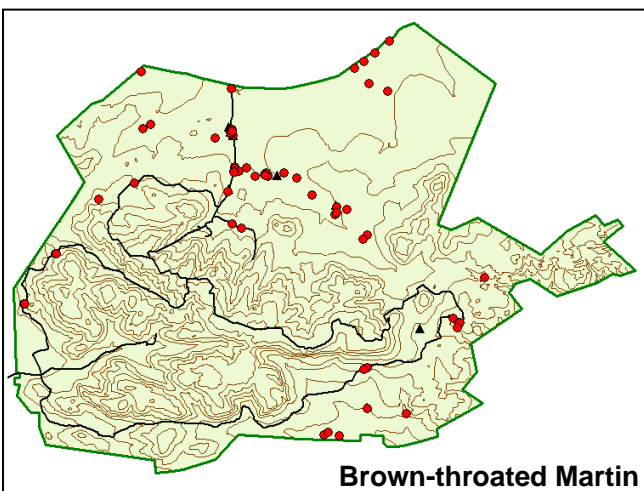
REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
53	11	0



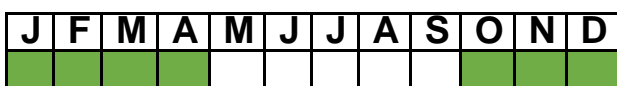
Martin, Rock
Hirundo fuligula



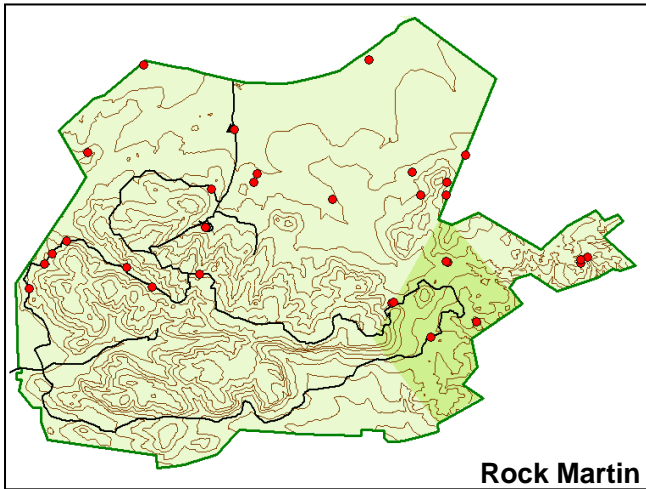
Possible migrant. Recorded in August by Day (1975), March-September during BIRP and in May-December by ourselves. The absence of records for January and February suggests movements away from the area outside the breeding season. Widespread in the north but the absence of sightings along main south-facing cliffs is puzzling. Solitary or in small flocks (≤ 6), typically in mixed flocks with other aerial feeders.



Martin, Common House
Delichon urbicum



REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
24	4	4



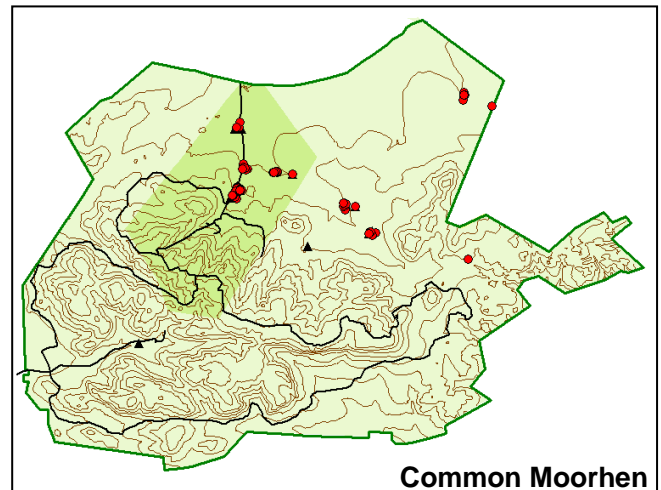
Moorhen, Common

Gallinula chloropus

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Breeding resident. Restricted to old farm dams with emergent vegetation. Solitary or in small groups (≤ 10). Up to 26 recorded during CWAC. An adult was seen with a chick on 18 May 2022.

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
57	30	3*



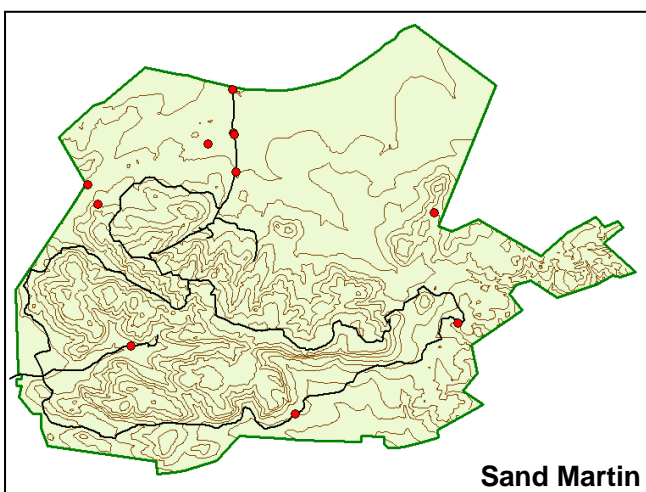
Sand Martin

Riparia riparia

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Palaearctic migrant. Solitary. Restricted to streams and wetlands. Single record for November during BIRP.

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
11	<1	0



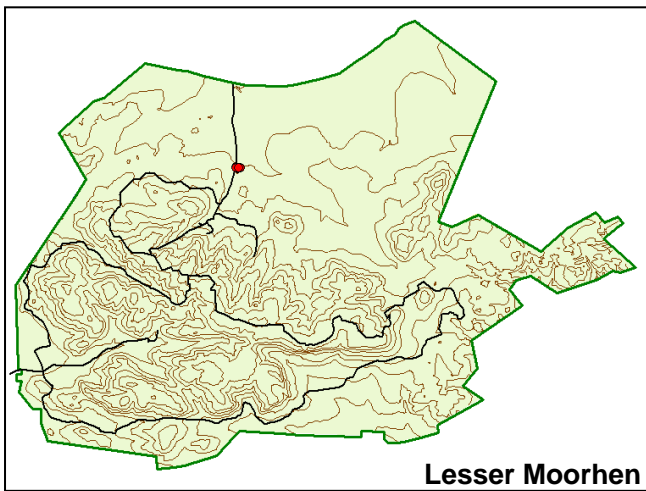
Moorhen, Lesser

Paragallinula angulata

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Vagrant but possibly overlooked. A pair bred in an area of flooded grassland and emergent vegetation at the inflow to a small dam during March and April 2021 producing two chicks.

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
5	0	0



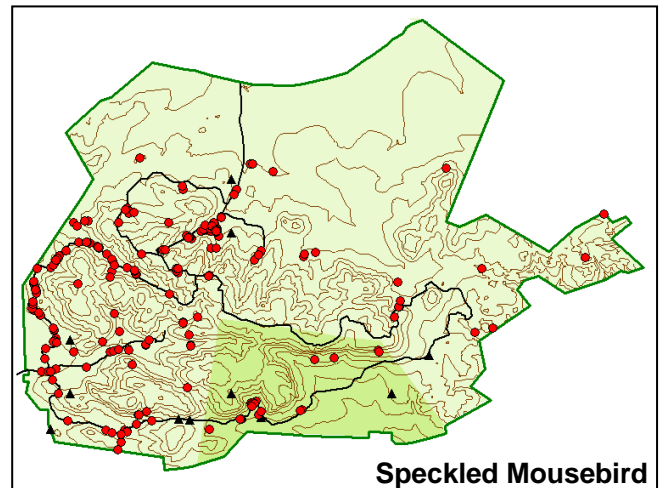
Mousebird, Speckled

Colius striatus



Resident. Widespread in wooded habitats. S. Wolff recorded only a single sighting at Elandsvlakte in January 1975. Small flocks (≤ 8). Forty-four were ringed (SAFRING).

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
79	44	0



Mousebird, White-backed

Colius colius



Resident. Mainly found in sweet thorn savannah and steep-slope grassland. Singly, in pairs and small flocks (≤ 12). Two were ringed near Evergreen Ranch on 3 June 2000, the edge of the species range in the north, and 14 in the Kareekloof area (SAFRING).

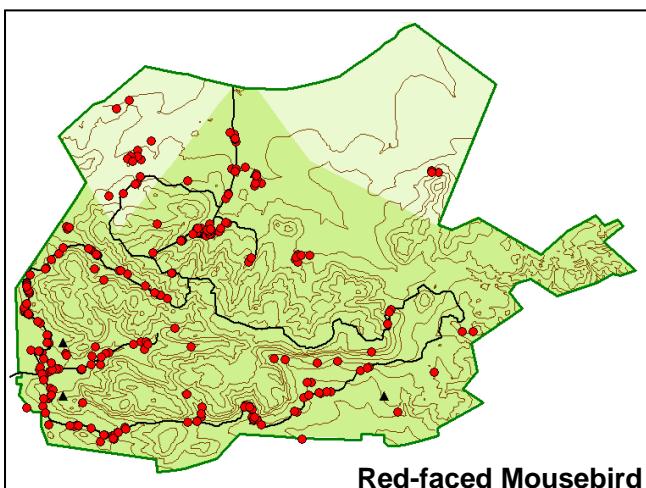
Mousebird, Red-faced

Urocolius indicus

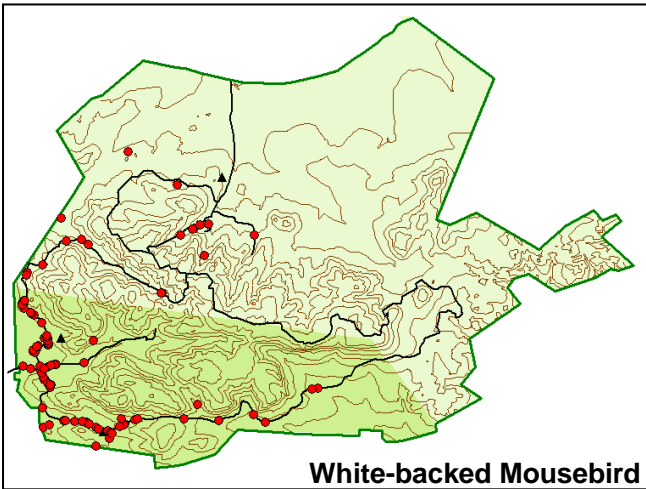


Breeding resident. Widespread in wooded habitats. Often in small flocks (≤ 10) but up to 17. An adult was seen carrying nest material on 28 September 2018. Seventy were ringed, mainly in the Kareekloof, but none were recaptured (SAFRING) despite a multi-year ringing effort.

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
92	50	72*



REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
54	2	18*



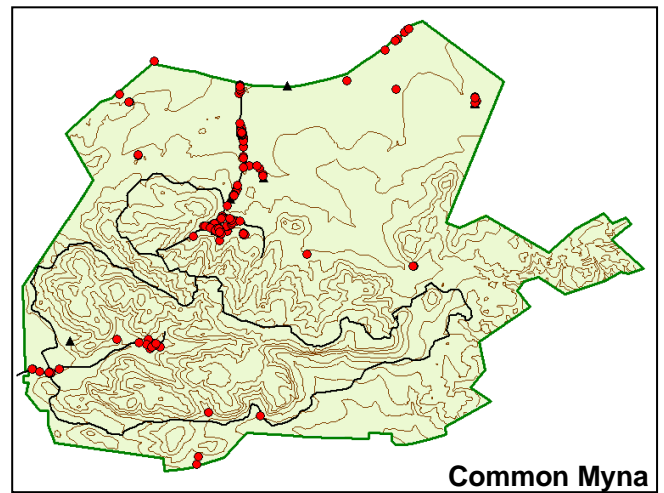
Myna, Common

Acridotheres tristis

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Resident; has bred. Naturalised alien. Found mainly around infrastructure including ruined homesteads, and on mowed lawns and verges. Solitary, in pairs and rarely groups (≤ 5). Breeding reported for October (BIRP 2012). One was ringed on 24 June 2006 in the Kareekloof area (SAFRING).

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
78	23	0



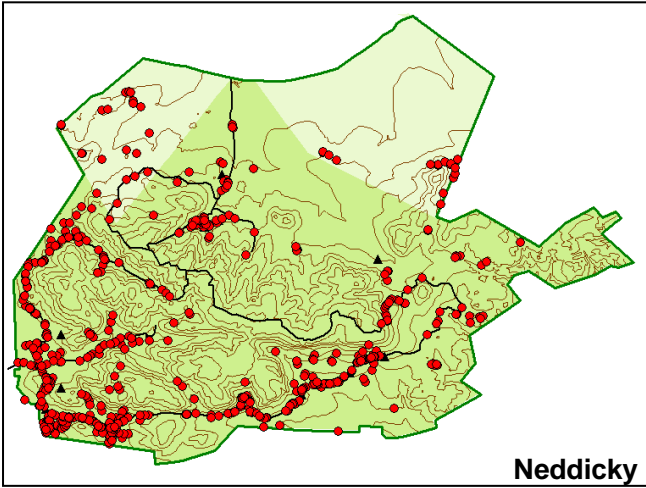
Neddicky

Cisticola fulvicapilla

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Breeding resident. Widespread but absent from open grassland. Solitary, sometimes in pairs, rarely in groups (≤ 4). A courtship display was observed on 27 October 2021 and S. Wolff reported breeding in November 1970 (Day 1975). An adult was observed feeding two Cuckoo-finch chicks on 17 March 2022. Thirty-one were ringed of which three were subsequently recaptured (2 days to 1 year later) in the same vicinity (SAFRING).

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
92	72	80*



Neddicky

Nightjar, Fiery-necked
Caprimulgus pectoralis

Vagrant. One was heard calling in the Wolwekloof area by N. De Beer during a nocturnal survey on 16 November 2023. Not recorded previously for the reserve, but there were two records for two pentads that overlap the reserve during SABAP2, most recently on 18 September 2022.

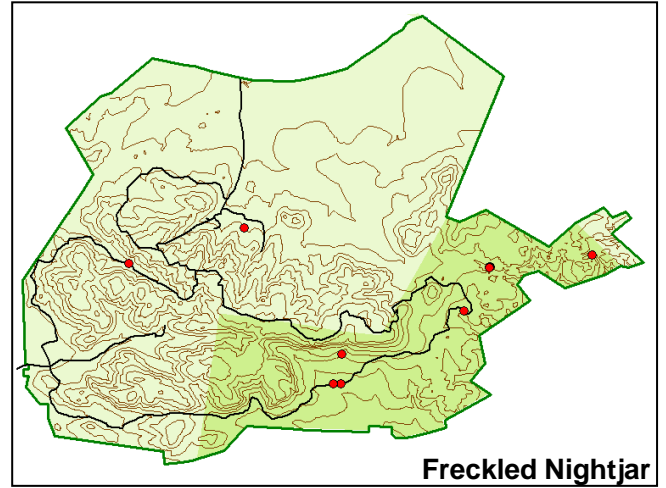
[No map]

Nightjar, Freckled
Caprimulgus tristigma

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Probable resident. Under-reported due to limited nocturnal survey data. Our records are mainly for rocky shrubland and kloof bush but expected to be more widespread. First seen in summit montane grassland on 16 November 2023 during nocturnal mammal counts.

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
8	0	10



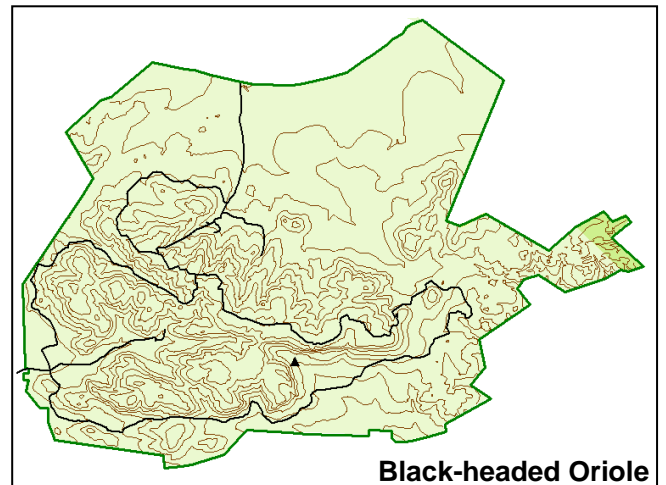
Freckled Nightjar

Oriole, Black-headed
Oriolus larvatus

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Vagrant. Recorded for Heidelberg Kloof in September 1970 (Day 1975) and by CWJ for Steenbokkloof on 13 November 2001. There were four additional records during BIRP and eight records for four pentads that overlap the reserve during SABAP2. There is potential for confusion between the call of this species and variations of that of the Southern Boubou.

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
0	3	2*



Black-headed Oriole

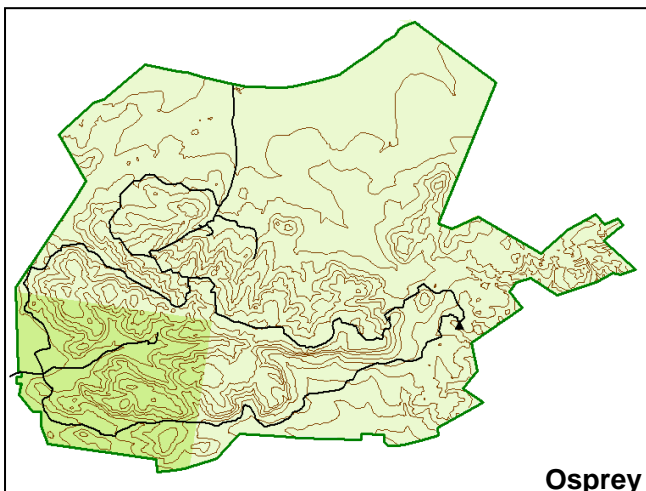
Osprey

Pandion haliaetus

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Vagrant. Day (1975) recorded individuals over Blesboklaagte and Schoongezicht in May and December 1971. One record for April during BIRP and an unusual winter sighting by J. Avni on 20 August 2004 for Sedaven Dam appear to be the only subsequent records. There were no records for pentads that overlap the reserve during SABAP2.

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
0	<1	4



Owl, African Grass

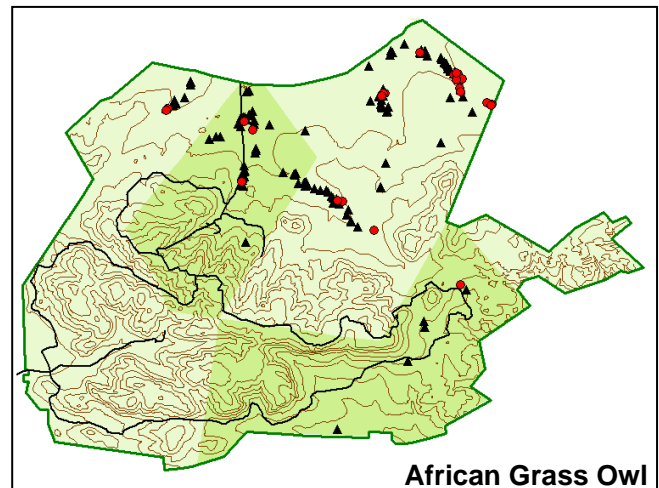
Tyto capensis VU, LC

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Breeding resident. Largely restricted to wetland areas in plains grassland and old lands on the northern extension. Seldom observed during the day unless flushed from thick grass. Solitary, in

pairs or small family groups (≤ 5) at nest sites. Numbers declined from 25 in 2009 to just three in 2022 but have since recovered to 20 in 2023 following successive years of good rain. Nests with eggs or young were recorded in March-July. Killed on roads adjacent to the reserve and one was ensnared on a barbed wire fence.

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
7	2	10



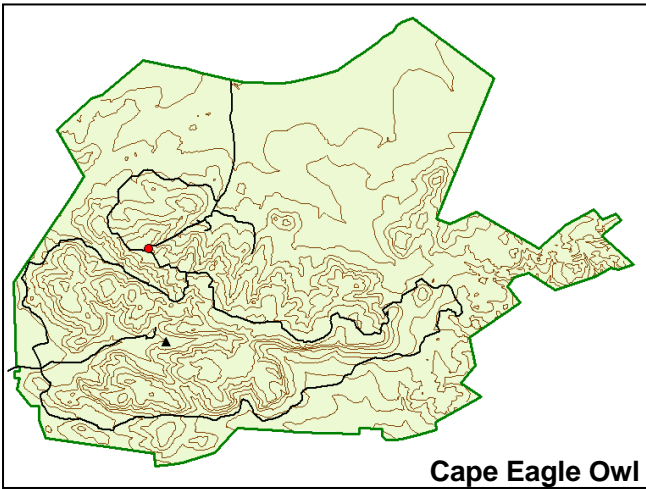
Owl, Cape Eagle

Bubo capensis

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Possibly resident despite the paucity of records. Heard calling at the derelict Kareekloof resort during an owl survey on 17 February 2015. Extensive whitewash still evident on a cliff in this area could indicate breeding. One was seen perched at the top of the Diepkloof by CWJ during a nocturnal mammal count on 9 December 2022.

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
1	0	0



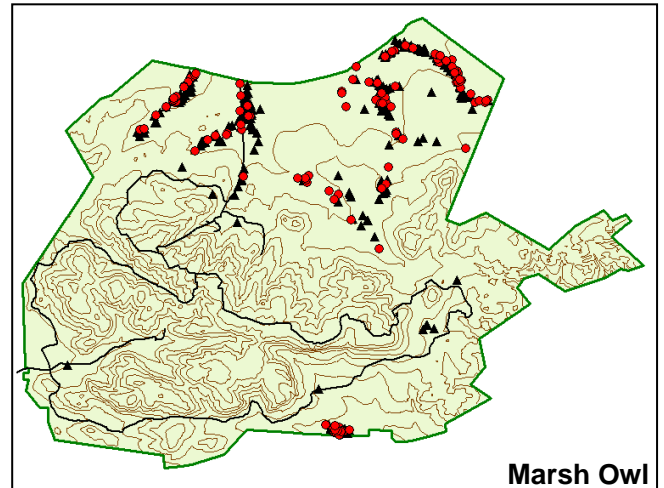
Owl, Marsh

Asio capensis

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Breeding resident. Widespread in suitable wetland habitat but mainly in the north. May be seen foraging over wetlands and adjacent grassland on winter mornings. Solitary, in pairs or groups (≤ 14). Sixty-one counted in 2023 is the highest yet recorded during annual surveys. Eggs were found in March-July and chicks in March-June.

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
20	3	0



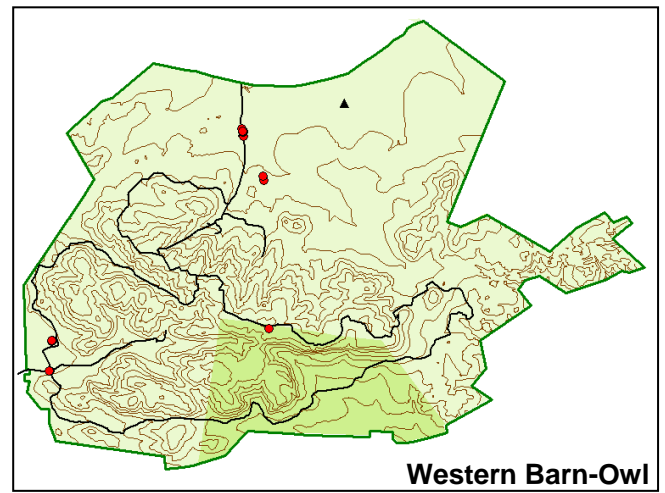
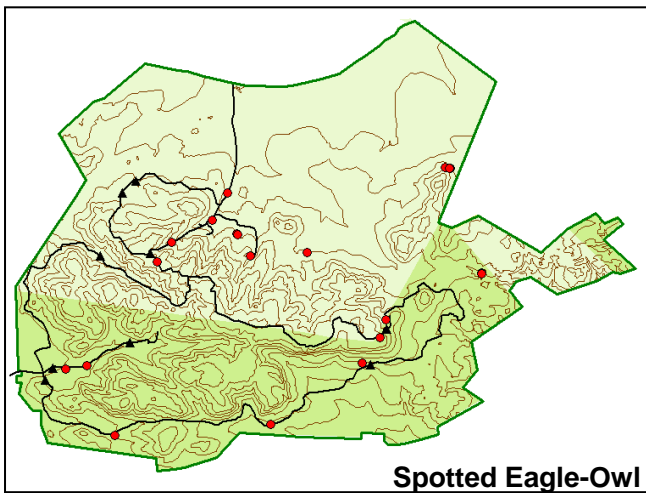
Owl, Spotted Eagle-

Bubo africanus

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Probably resident. Under-reported due to limited nocturnal survey data. Day (1975) includes a record for September. Mainly found in wooded areas. Solitary or in pairs. Eight were recorded along the main tourist route and approach road to Kareekloof resort during a nocturnal survey in rainy conditions on 8 December 2022. Two were ringed, and one initially trapped close to the main tourist route west of Duiker hut on 12 May 1971 was recovered in the Elandsvlakte area on 9 June 1977, approximately 5km away (SAFRING).

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
9	2	10*



Owl, Western Barn

Tyto alba

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Breeding resident. Under-reported due to limited nocturnal survey data. Day (1975) recorded a single bird near Holhoek in November. Often found in association with man-made infrastructure (abandoned or in use). There are a multitude of such sites on the reserve but in the absence of a comprehensive survey there is no good population estimate. At least two pairs are present. Large accumulations of pellets in some abandoned buildings indicate long occupation. Two juveniles were seen perched between a steel girder under the thatched roof of Diepkloof gate on 25 August 2022. This is a regular roost site. Two were ringed in the Elandsvlakte area on 29 December 1971 (SAFRING).

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
50	1	2*

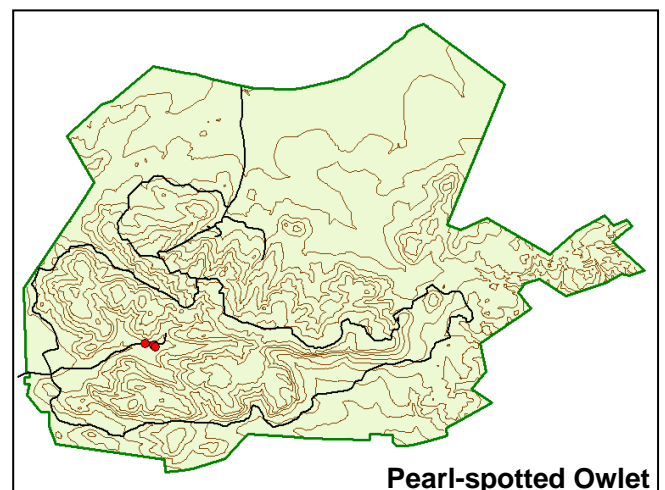
Owlet, Pearl-spotted

Glaucidium perlatum

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Our initial record was based on a brief and unsatisfactory call heard on 24 August 2018. This observation was only visually confirmed on 19 October 2022 when the characteristic call led us to a single owlet perched on a tree next to the abandoned shop at the now derelict Kareekloof resort.

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
3	0	0



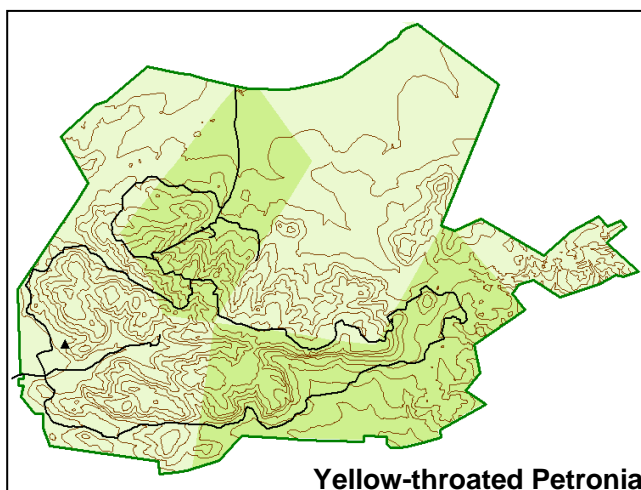
Oxpecker, Red-billed
Buphagus erythrorhynchus

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

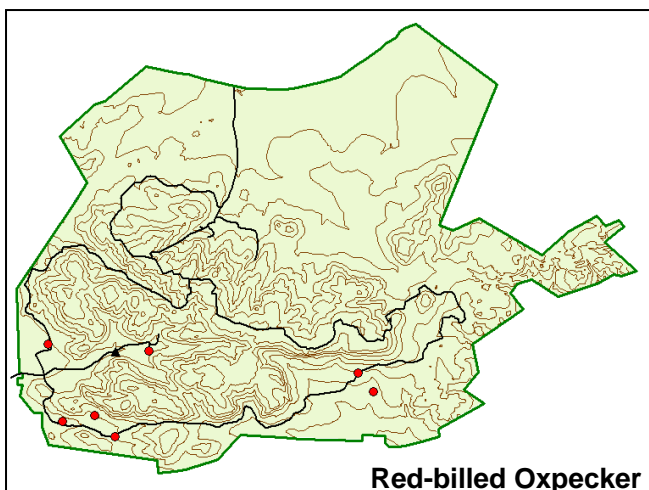
First reported by C. Symes for the aloe forest in the Kareekloof during 2005-2007. Individuals and small groups (≤ 4) were subsequently seen on 1 July 2014, 16 April 2021, 7 May 2021, 15 June 2021, 27 September 2021, 30 November 2021 and 14 December 2021. Found with large ungulate herds in the Elandsvlakte area but also seen flying over sweet thorn savannah and perched on a wooden pylon at the abandoned Schoongezicht house.

November and December and there was one record for August during BIRP. Two specimens were ringed in the Kareekloof/Schoongezicht area on 19 February 2000 and another on 20 January 2001 (SAFRING). There were 11 records for four pentads that overlap the reserve during SABAP2, most recently on 8 February 2020.

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
0	<1	8*



REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
8	0	0



Petronia (Bush Sparrow), Yellow-throated
Gymnoris superciliaris

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Vagrant. Day (1975) recorded four individuals at various localities during

Pigeon, African Olive
Columba arquatrix

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Vagrant. First recorded by R. Deysel on 5 March 2008 and subsequently in the Diepkloof area by CWJ on 14 May 2014. There were six records for four pentads that overlap the reserve during SABAP2, most recently on 18 June 2022.

[No map]

Pigeon, Speckled

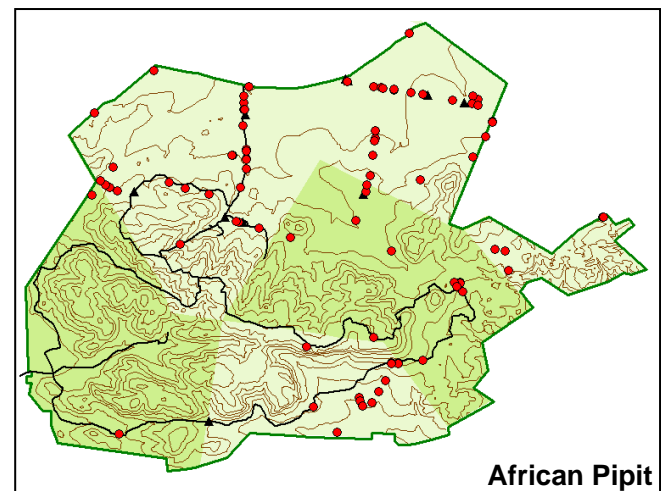
Columba guinea

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Breeding resident. Widespread, found over all habitats. Often seen in flight. Solitary, in pairs and groups. A loose formation of about 3000 pigeons (individual flocks of up to 600) passed over Wolwekloof in 45 minutes on 29 September 2021. Breeding was recorded in June 2020 and 2021. Day (1975) recorded breeding throughout the year and flocks of up to 30. This species appears to have become much more abundant but is likely highly dependent on agricultural activities in the surrounding landscape. Three were ringed (SAFRING).

Resident; has bred. Mainly recorded in heavily grazed, mowed or burnt areas of plains grassland and most readily observed in roadside firebreaks. Solitary or in pairs but up to five seen in the same area. Breeding reported for October (BIRP 2012).

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
53	46	16



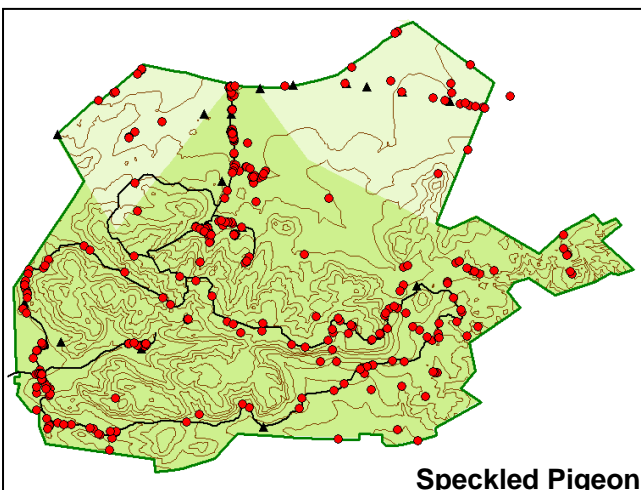
REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
96	51	74*

Pipit, African Rock

Anthus crenatus NT, LC

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Possible resident. Probably under-recorded. Found in patches of elevated rocky grassland at widely scattered localities. There were six reports during BIRP, but the discovery of two individuals at the top of the Diepkloof by E. Marais on 14 December 2002 appears to be the first record for the reserve. Marais and Peacock (2008) subsequently noted that the species, once regularly observed on steeper rocky slopes along the tourist route east of Diepkloof, had become less common. More recently, H. Nel

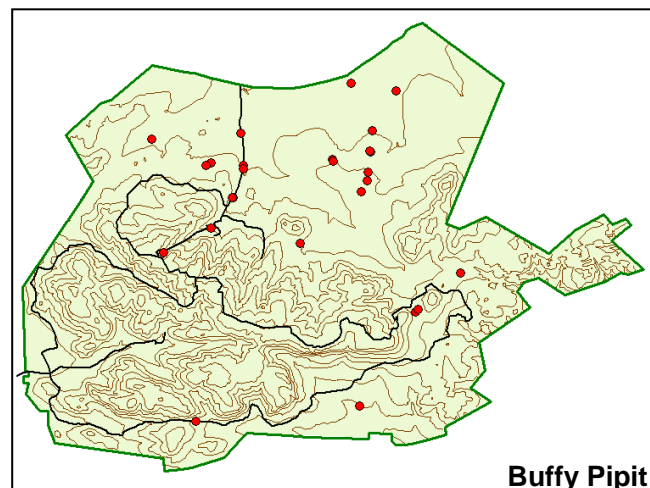


Pipit, African

Anthus cinnamomeus

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

reported that the species was reliably recorded for the area of rocky hills around Sedaven Dam, but this is also no longer the case. Potential displacement by over-playing of calls is a concern. Recent records are from isolated localities away from public roads.



Buffy Pipit

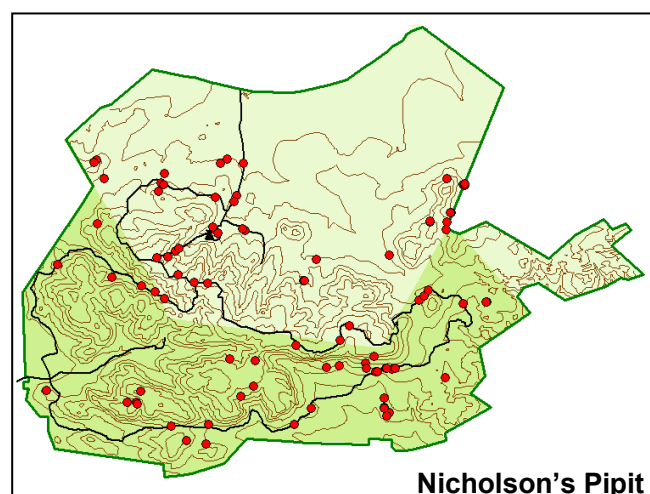
Pipit, Nicholson's

Anthus nicholsoni

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

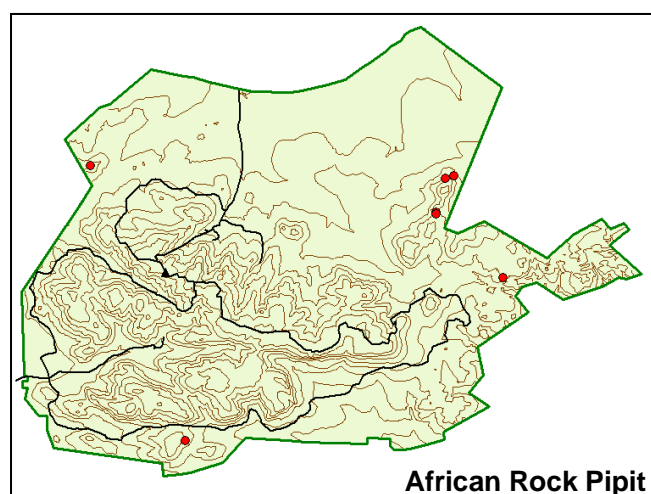
Breeding resident. Widespread, found mainly in steep-slope grassland. Often solitary, occasionally in pairs, rarely three together. A nest with eggs was found on the ground under a low rocky overhang above Holhoek on 14 December 2021.

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
51	37	20*



Nicholson's Pipit

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
8	3	0



African Rock Pipit

Pipit, Buffy

Anthus vaalensis

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Possible resident. Difficult to distinguish from Plain-backed Pipit and likely to have been under-recorded. Widespread but mainly found in plains grassland and old lands. Often solitary, but up to three have been seen together.

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
17	5	0

Pipit, Plain-backed
Anthus leucophrys

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Probable resident. Widespread, found mainly in plains grassland and old lands. Difficult to distinguish in the field from similar Buffy Pipit and both species are likely to have been under-recorded. Usually solitary, sometimes in pairs but up to four have been recorded together. Breeding reported for November (BIRP 2012).

during SABAP2. The most recent was on 15 November 2022.

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
0	<1	0

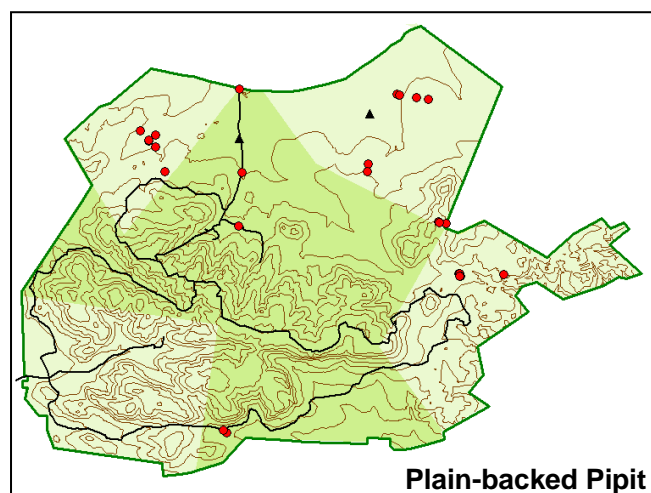
[No map]

Pipit, Yellow-breasted
Anthus chloris VU, VU

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Visitor. Restricted to plains grassland and old lands. One was recorded on the edge of a firebreak along the Eendracht Road by E. Marias on 14 June 2004. This first record was followed by a sighting of two birds on 30 June 2004 by M. Bernadie and then three birds by E. Marais and F. Peacock on 7 July 2004. An individual photographed along the tourist route southwest of Duiker hut by N. Perrin on 23 April 2021 was the first record for the original reserve. Our subsequent sightings in June, July and August of 2021 were for the reserve and the extension. This species is easily overlooked in its comparatively drab non-breeding plumage and may well be a more common winter visitor than current records suggest.

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
17	13	14

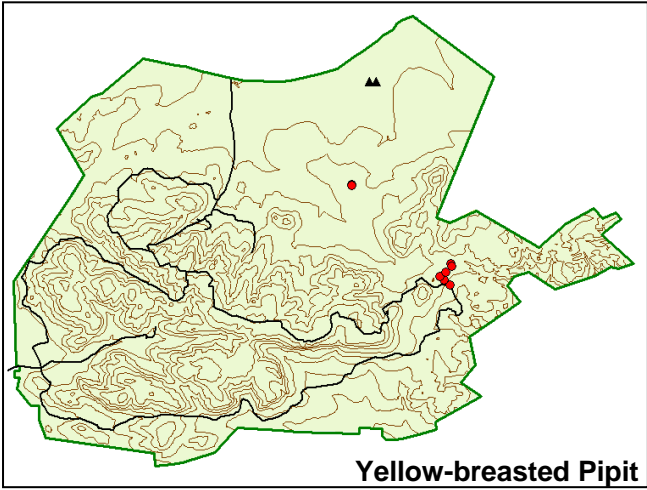


Pipit, Striped
Anthus lineiventris

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Vagrant, but probably overlooked. There was only one record for September during BIRP despite an abundance of seemingly suitable habitat. There were eight records for four pentads that overlap the reserve

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
7	0	0



Pochard, Red-crested

Netta rufina

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Escaped alien. An individual was recorded during CWAC on 14 July 2006.

[No map]

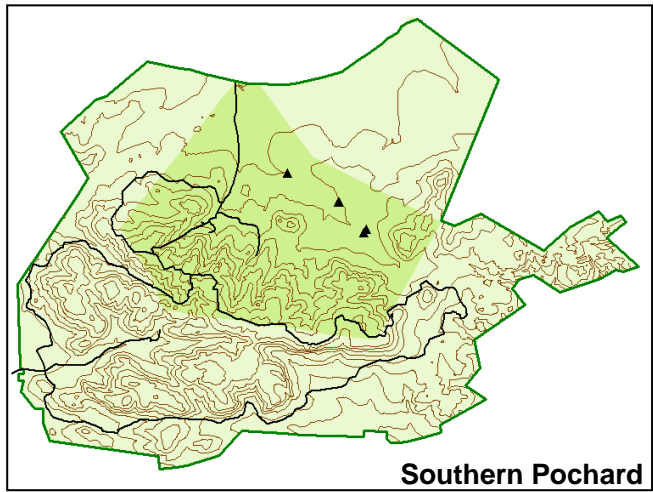
Pochard, Southern

Netta erythrophthalma

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Vagrant. Recorded twice by Day (1975) including one flock of 30 on Valsfontein in February 1972 and four times during BIRP. Up to 23 recorded during CWAC. Commonly recorded in pentads that overlap the reserve during SABAP2.

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
0	2	7*



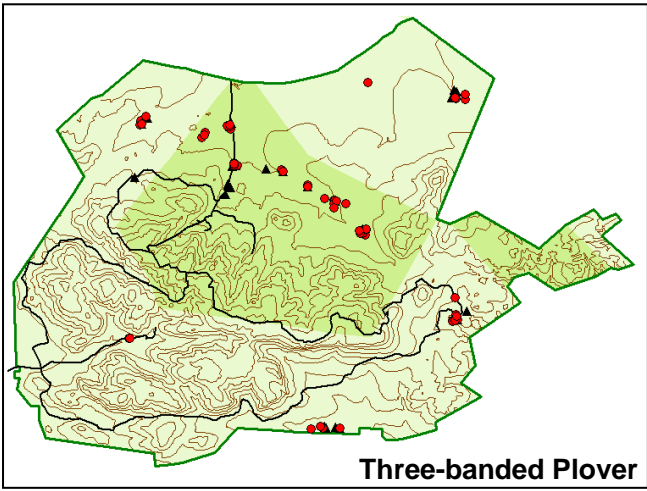
Plover, Three-banded

Charadrius tricollaris

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Probable resident. Recorded in all months and during 69% of waterbird counts but not known to have bred. Attracted to open shorelines of dams and muddy patches within large grassy wetlands. Solitary, in pairs and occasionally small groups. Up to 31 were recorded during CWAC. Considered an occasional summer visitor by Day (1975).

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
36	23	20*

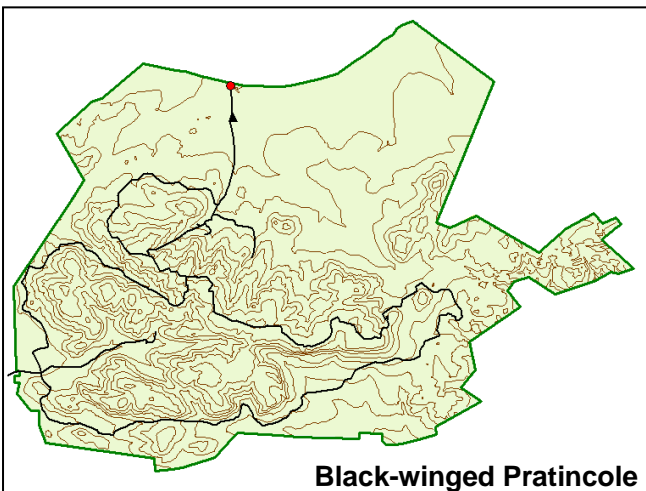


Pratincole, Black-winged
Glareola nordmanni NT, NT

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Vagrant. Flocks of over 100 were seen flying over plains grassland and old lands in the vicinity of the Diepkloof gate at dusk on 15 January 2010 and on 16 February 2016. An individual was seen in the same area on 14 March 2019.

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
1	<1	0



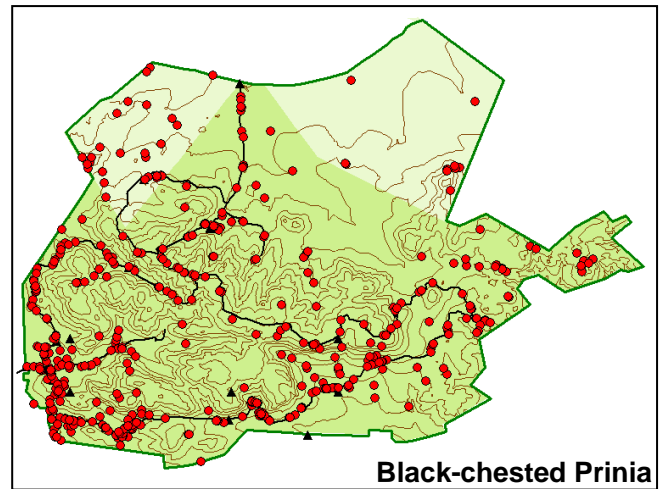
Prinia, Black-chested
Prinia flavicans

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Breeding resident. Widespread, most common in sweet thorn savannah, but also frequents kloof bush. In more open habitats, found mainly along wooded and bushy drainage lines. Solitary, in pairs, occasionally threes. Adult seen carrying nesting material on 22 January 2019. S. Wolff also recorded breeding in January 1975 (Day 1975). An

individual, presumably ringed outside the reserve, was recaptured at Holhoek. Nine others ringed in the Kareekloof were subsequently recaptured (1 day-12 months later) where they were first trapped (SAFRING).

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
92	78	86*

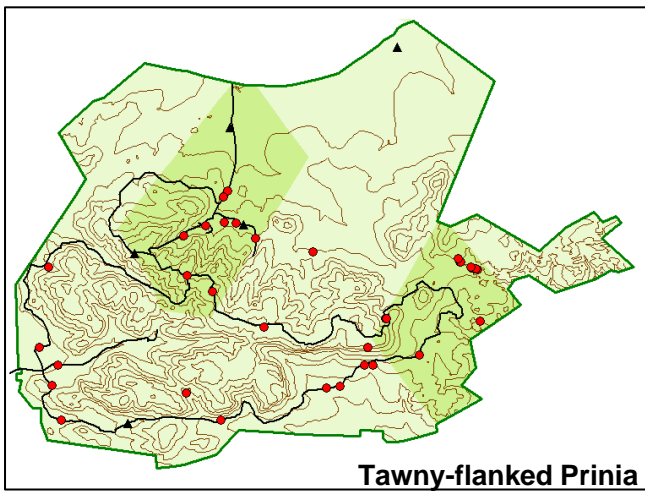


Prinia, Tawny-flanked
Prinia subflava

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Resident. Found along drainage lines in steep-slope grassland, rocky shrubland and sweet thorn savannah throughout the original extent of the reserve. Solitary and in pairs. Eight were ringed (SAFRING).

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
28	17	12*

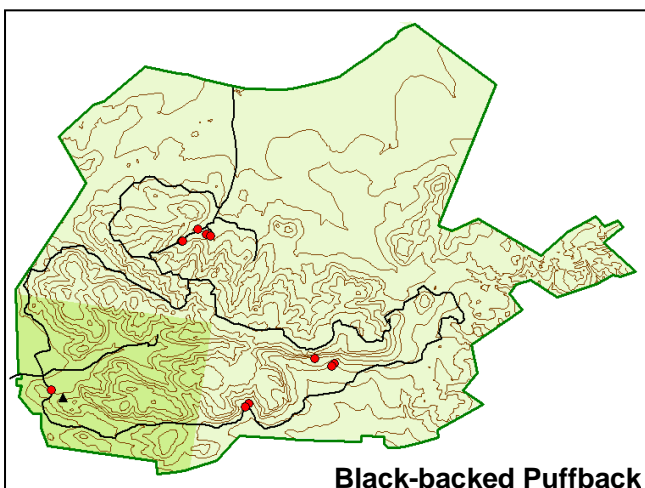


Puffback, Black-backed
Dryoscopus cubla

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Possible resident. Surprisingly elusive and probably overlooked when not calling. First reported by B. Fargher at Kareekloof in November 1970 (Day 1975). One record during BIRP and nine subsequently. Found in a diversity of wooded habitats. Solitary or in pairs. One was ringed in the Kareekloof (SAFRING).

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
12	<1	2

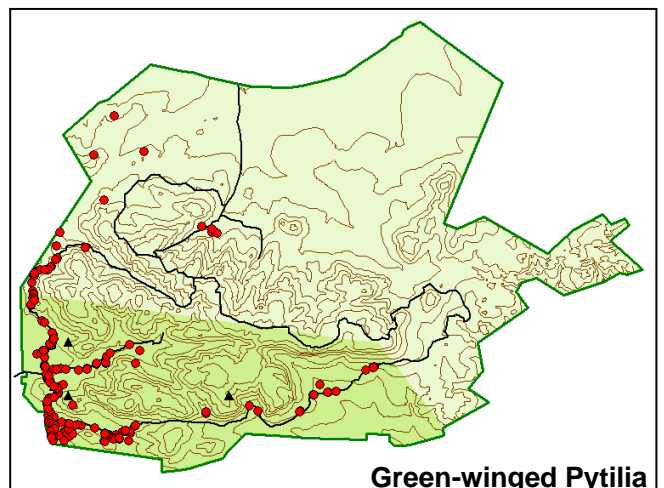


Pytilia, Green-winged
Pytilia melba

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Breeding resident. Most records were for sweet thorn savannah. Solitary, in pairs and small groups (≤ 7). An unusually large group seen on 10 May 2021 contained 19 adults and juveniles. Other mixed age groups were seen in April and July. Almost 180 were ringed and 30 subsequently recaptured (most within 4 months but two after 12 and 13 months respectively) where they were first trapped (SAFRING). Two further recaptures were of individuals believed to have been ringed outside the reserve.

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
68	19	12*



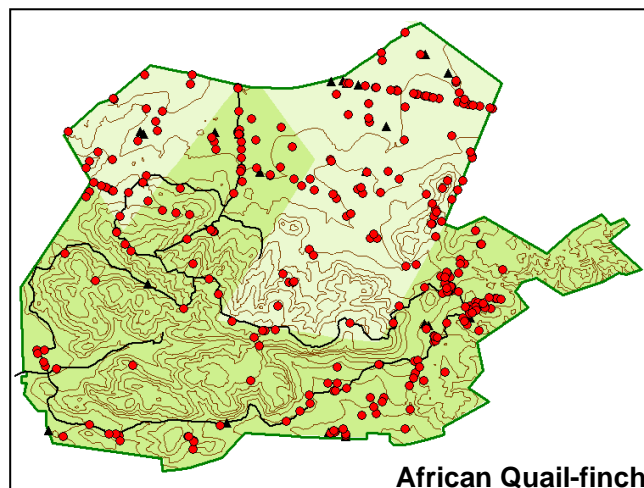
Quail, Common
Coturnix coturnix

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Intra-African breeding migrant. Recorded throughout the year but not in all months. Movements poorly understood but probably linked to rainfall. Found in grassland at all altitudes. Solitary, in pairs and threes. Juvenile birds were recorded on 17 March 2022. Breeding was also reported for April (BIRP 2012). The record of a specimen supposedly ringed at Elandsvlakte on 15 August 1973 (SAFRING) may be erroneous given the diversity of rarities claimed to have been captured on the same day.

S. Wolff reported breeding in April and May (Day 1975).

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
79	12	50*



Quelea, Red-billed

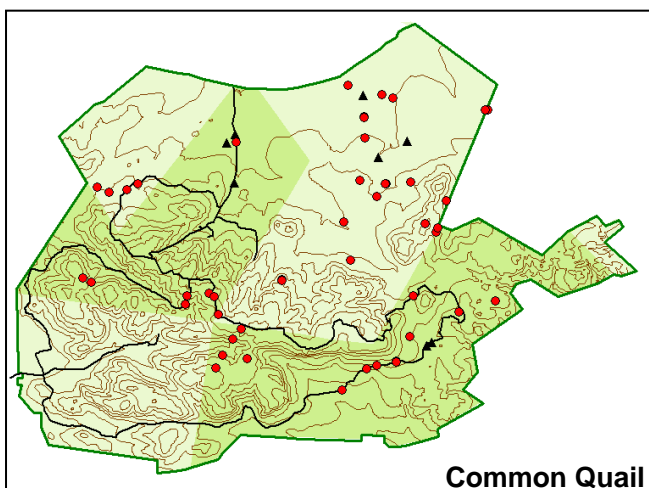
Quelea quelea

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Visitor. Present in all months but numbers highly variable. Widespread, found in all habitats except rocky shrubland. Solitary, in small groups and flocks of several hundred to several thousand. Active nest building observed on 13 December 2021 but unknown if this progressed to egg laying. Day (1975) reported sporadic sightings of flocks of up to 50. Twenty were ringed, mostly in the vicinity of Elandsvlakte (SAFRING).

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
66	17	20

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
17	2	2

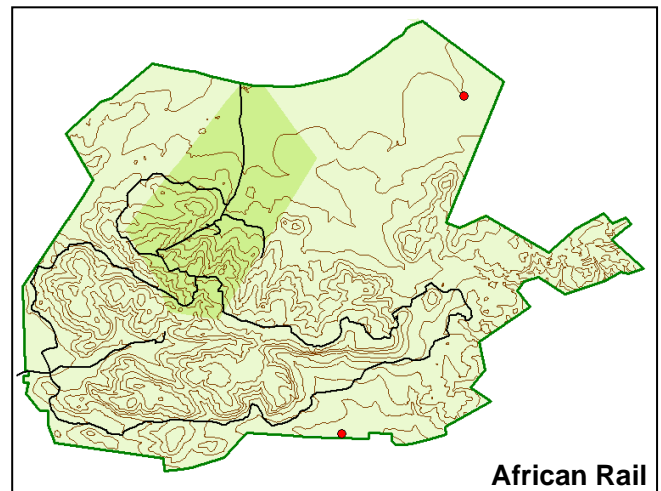
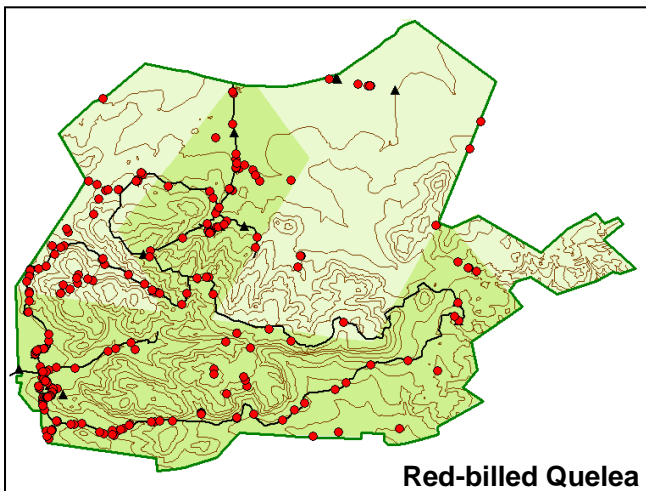


Quail-finch, African

Ortygospiza atricollis

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Resident; has bred. Found throughout the reserve and in all habitats except kloof bush, though most common in grassland near water. Heard more often than seen. Usually in small groups, but flocks of 30-40 recorded on occasion.



Rail, African

Rallus caerulescens

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Vagrant, but probably overlooked. Heard calling from a reed bed at Evergreen Ranch in February 1972 (Day 1975) and subsequently from emergent vegetation next to a large dam at Koppieskraal on 11 August 2022. The most recent sighting was of a bird flushed from tall vegetation during a routine waterbird count at Elandsvlakte on 25 January 2023. The record of a specimen supposedly ringed in this area on 15 August 1973 (SAFRING) may be erroneous given the diversity of other rarities claimed to have been captured on the same day.

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
3	0	3*

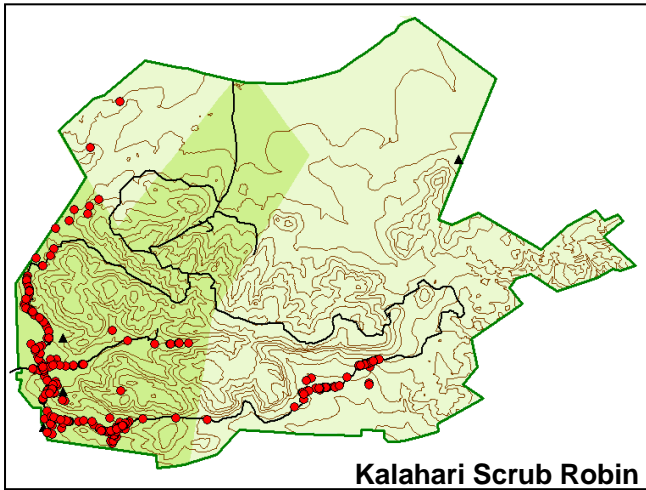
Robin, Kalahari Scrub

Cercotrichas paena

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Resident; has bred. Previously restricted to the west of the reserve (Day 1975). Still found predominantly in sweet thorn savannah but now also common in woodland north of Elandsvlakte and absent from Evergreen Ranch. Often solitary but occasionally in pairs. Breeding reported for November (BIRP 2012). Seven were ringed (SAFRING).

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
66	59	16



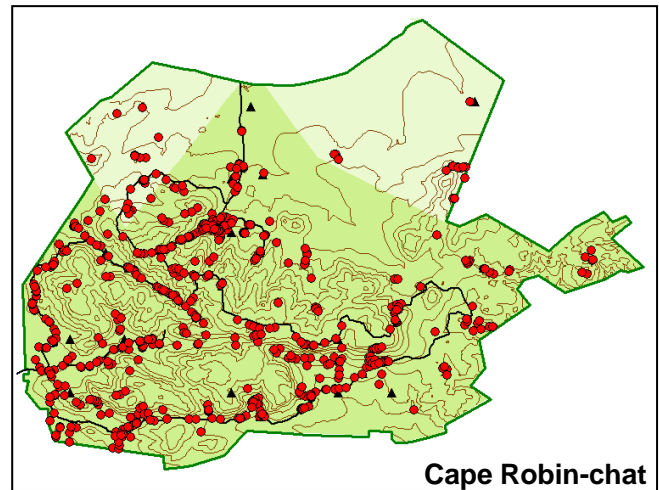
September, and November (Day 1975, BIRP 2012). Of the approximately 120 ringed, 15 were recaptured (1 day-2 years later) where they had been originally trapped (SAFRING).

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
97	92	96*

Robin, White-browed Scrub
Cercotrichas leucophrys

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Status uncertain. There were six reports during BIRP and 34 for five pentads that overlap the reserve during SABAP2. One was ringed north of Elandsvlakte on 8 April 1973 (SAFRING). Interestingly this record was not mentioned by Day (1975).



Roller, European
Coracias garrulus NT, LC

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Vagrant. First recorded during BIRP. We subsequently saw an individual in the vicinity of Eland hut on 28 February 2022.

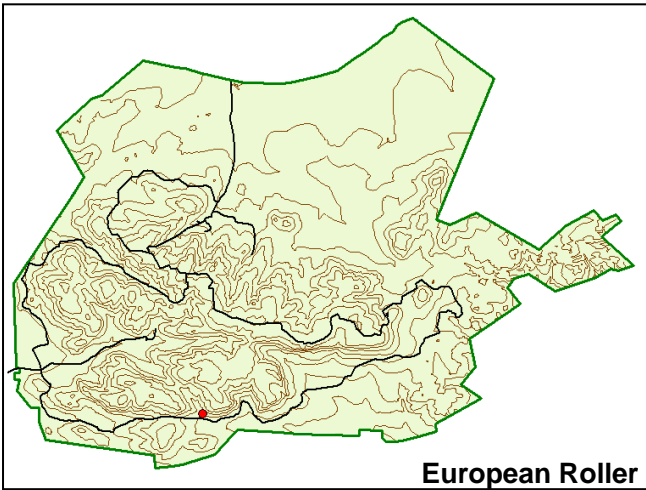
REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
0	3	0

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
1	1	0

Robin-chat, Cape
Cossypha caffra

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Breeding resident. Widespread, only absent from areas of open grassland. Solitary, sometimes in pairs and rarely three together. Day (1975) reported a density of up to 20 in a square mile (2.6 km²). Juvenile birds were recorded in December 2021. Breeding has also been reported for January, February,



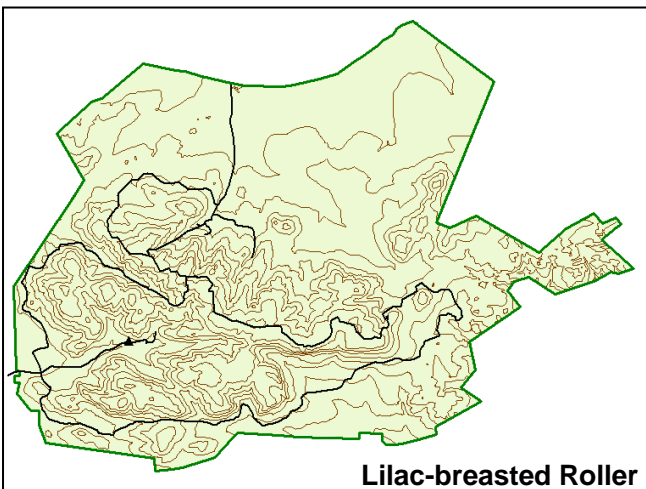
Roller, Lilac-breasted

Coracias caudatus

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Vagrant. Seen in 1985 (Anon 1986) and once for January during BIRP. An individual was subsequently seen perched on an overhead wire at the entrance to the Kareekloof resort by CWJ and N. Horn on 11 February 2011.

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
0	<1	0



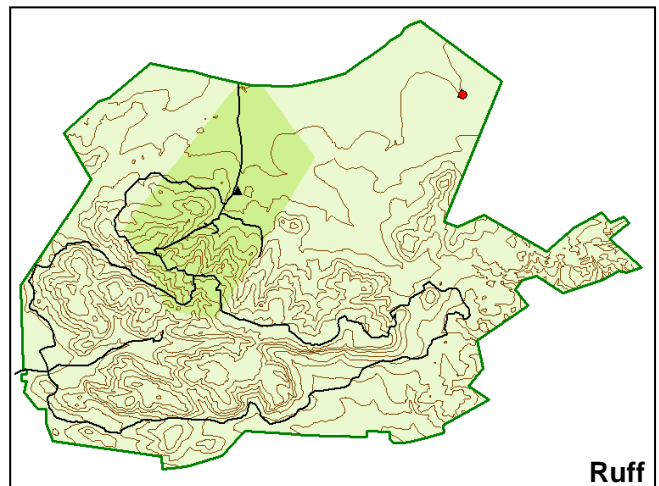
Ruff

Calidris pugnax

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Vagrant. Only recorded during 12% of summer waterbird counts. Seen twice by Day, once during BIRP and once by us on 14 March 2019. Not recorded for any pentads that overlap the reserve during SABAP2.

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
1	<1	7*



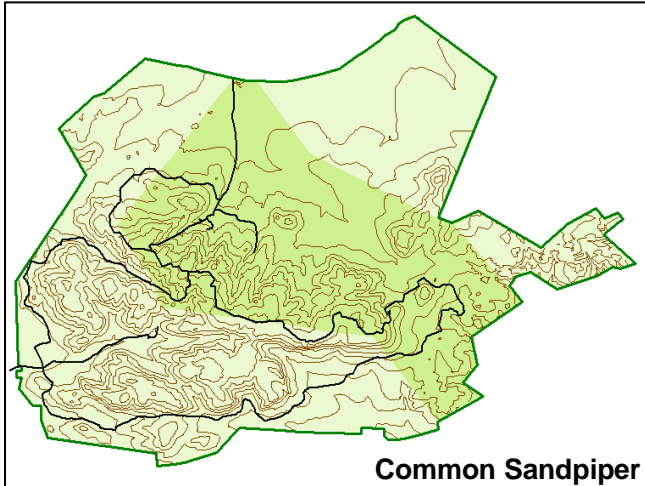
Sandpiper, Common

Actitis hypoleucos

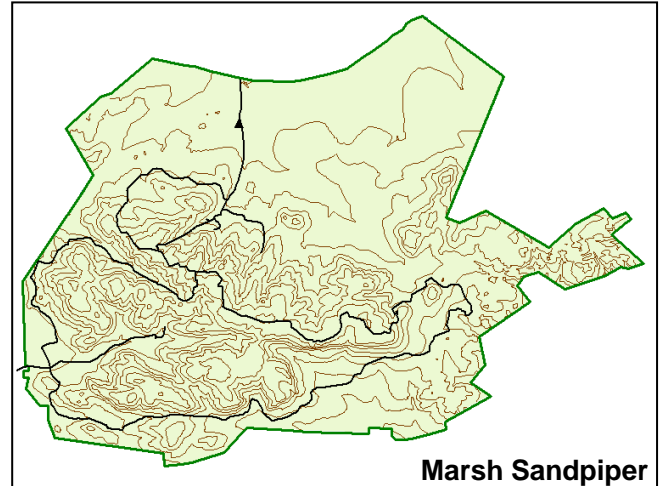
J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Vagrant. Day (1975) recorded individuals on three occasions during November and December. There were eight subsequent sightings for the reserve during BIRP, but none confirmed since. There were fifteen records for six pentads that overlap the reserve during SABAP2, most recently on 13 September 2023.

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
0	2	10*



REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
0	<1	0



Sandpiper, Curlew
Calidris ferruginea LC, NT

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Vagrant. Reported by reserve staff on 28 February 2005 but no confirmed sightings since. Recorded for one pentad that overlaps the reserve during SABAP2, on 31 August 2023.

[No map]

Sandpiper, Marsh
Tringa stagnatilis

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

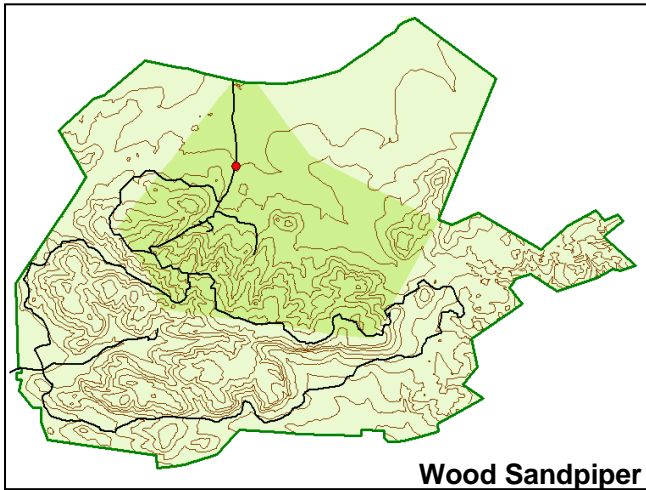
Vagrant. Only recorded during 6% of summer waterbird counts. Seen once during BIRP and subsequently on 23 September 2004, 29 October 2014, and 16 February 2016.

Sandpiper, Wood
Tringa glareola

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Vagrant. Only recorded during 6% of summer waterbird counts. Day (1975) twice recorded individuals and there were six sightings during BIRP. The most recent record was of an individual at a dam south of the Diepkloof gate on 22 January 2019. Up to eight were counted during CWAC.

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
1	3	7*

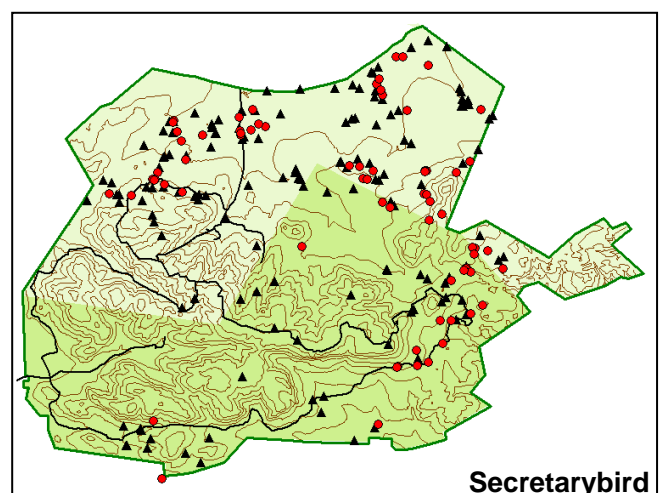


Secretarybird
Sagittarius serpentarius VU, VU

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Breeding resident. Widespread in grassland, avoids densely wooded areas and rocky shrubland. Usually solitary, in pairs or small family groups (3-4) with up to seven seen on a single day. In several years active nests on the northern extension were about 5km apart. Eggs were recorded on 29 July 2016 and chicks on nests during June-November. Breeding was also reported for March (BIRP 2012) and May (Day 1975). Now rarely recorded where nesting was observed by Day (1975) i.e., Elandsvlakte and Schoongezicht. Two chicks were ringed and tagged at a nest in the Cheetahkloof in September 2009.

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
39	11	12

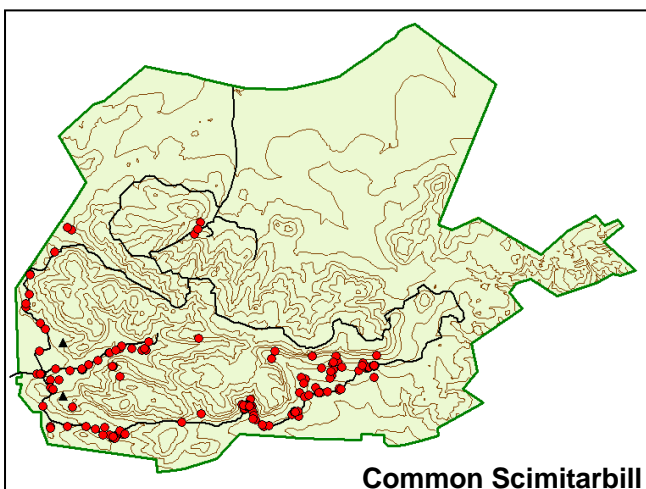


Scimitarbill, Common
Rhinopomastus cyanomelas

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Breeding resident. Mainly found in wooded habitat in the south and west. Surprisingly not recorded by Day (1975) or Anon (1986) but reported for all months during BIRP. Usually solitary, sometimes in pairs. Copulation observed 26 March 2021. Six were ringed in the Kareekloof (SAFRING).

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
66	17	0

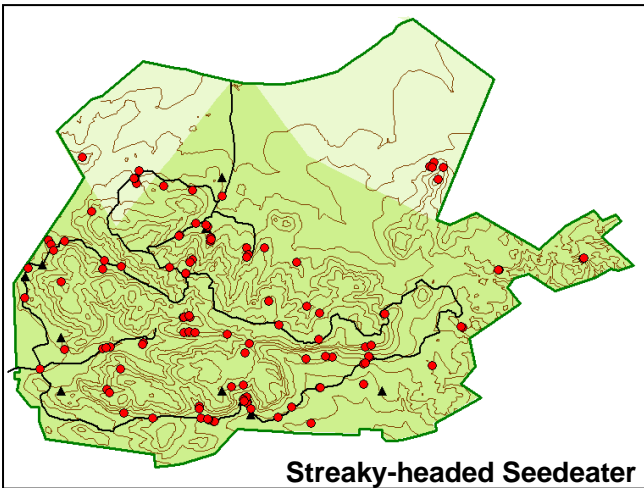


Seedeater, Streaky-headed
Crithagra gularis

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Breeding resident. Mainly found in steep-slope grassland, avoids plains grassland and old lands. Solitary, in pairs or small groups (≤ 4). Exceptionally 16 seen feeding together on aloes on 22 September 2019. A courtship display was observed on 15 September 2022 and an adult was seen carrying nesting material on 26 October 2010. S. Wolff also recorded breeding in October 1973 (Day 1975).

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
58	44	58*



Shelduck, Ruddy
Tadorna ferruginea

Escaped alien. A male was seen with a female South African Shelduck on the dam at the entrance to the derelict Kareekloof resort on 13 July 2023.

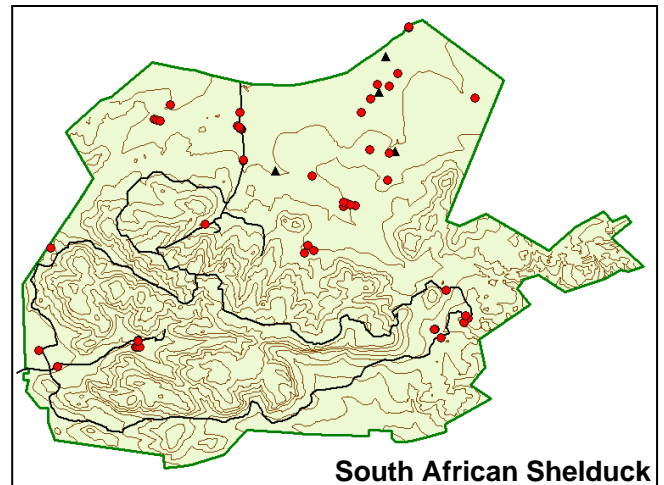
[No map]

Shelduck, South African
Tadorna cana

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Probable breeding resident. Mainly found in grassland and old lands, not restricted to waterbodies. Occasionally solitary, usually a pair, rarely in a group (≤ 9). Suitable burrows for nesting plentiful but possibly only one pair on the reserve. Two adults and seven juveniles were seen on 19 October and 10 November 2022. A female was seen with a male Ruddy Shelduck (*Tadorna ferruginea*) on the dam at the entrance to the derelict Kareekloof resort on 13 July 2023.

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
28	0	0

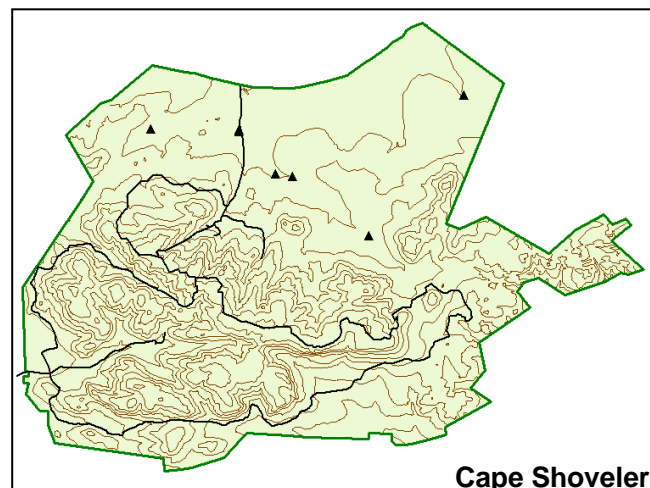


Shikra
Accipiter badius

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Vagrant, but possibly overlooked. Recorded by ID in sweet thorn

savannah north of Schoongezicht on 20 February 2020. A second individual was subsequently seen in woodland at the derelict Kareekloof resort on 14 December 2021.



Cape Shoveler

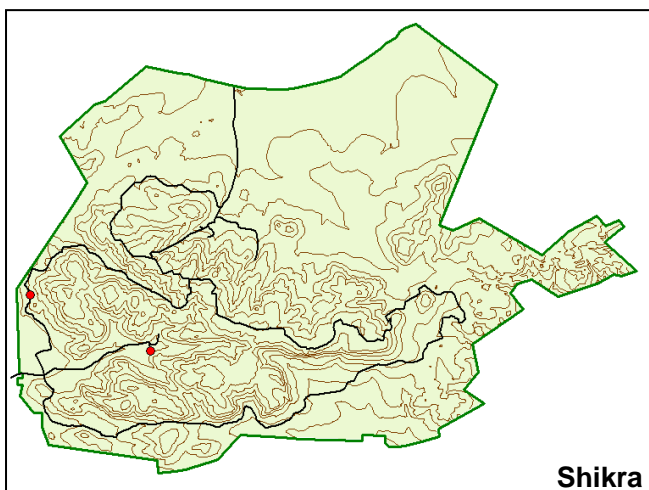
Shrike, Crimson-breasted
Laniarius atrococcineus

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Vagrant. Found in sweet thorn savannah and thornveld bordering kloof bush. Day (1975) recorded at least two pairs in the Kareekloof area in 1971. We detected the species on call for the same area on 22 October 2019. A single bird was reported by D. Koen along the tourist route in the vicinity of Steenbokkloof in late May 2023 and the bird was seen in the same area on 1 June. There were records for August and September during BIRP.

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
1	2	6*

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
3	0	0



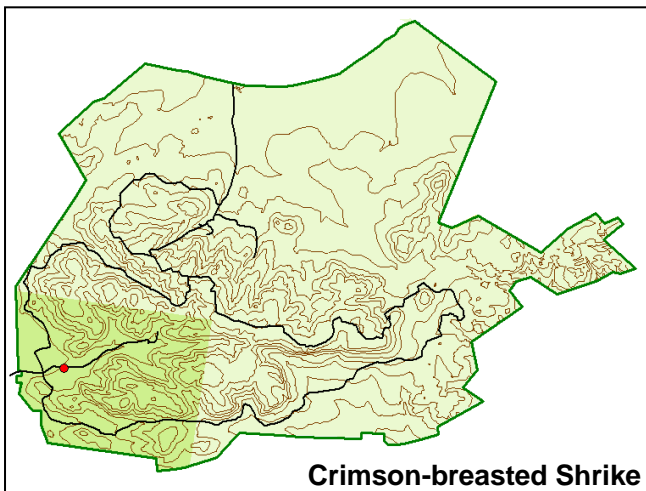
Shikra

Shoveler, Cape
Anas smithii

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Vagrant. Observations restricted to dams on the northern extension. First recorded during BIRP with six subsequent sightings, most recently on 8 August 2017. Up to four recorded during CWAC.

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
0	<1	0



Palearctic migrant. Record for May during BIRP presumed to be an error. Mainly found in steep-slope grassland and sweet thorn savannah. Solitary. Up to three recorded during a day. One was ringed (SAFRING).

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
25	17	0

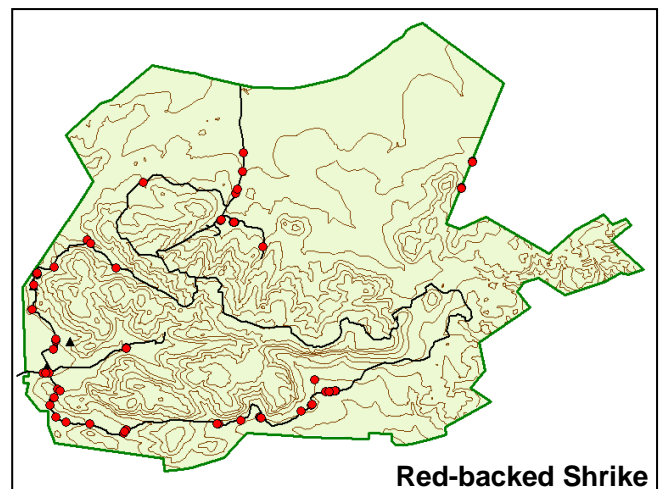
Shrike, Lesser Grey

Lanius minor

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	

Palearctic Migrant. Restricted to plains grassland and old lands. Solitary.

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
5	1	0

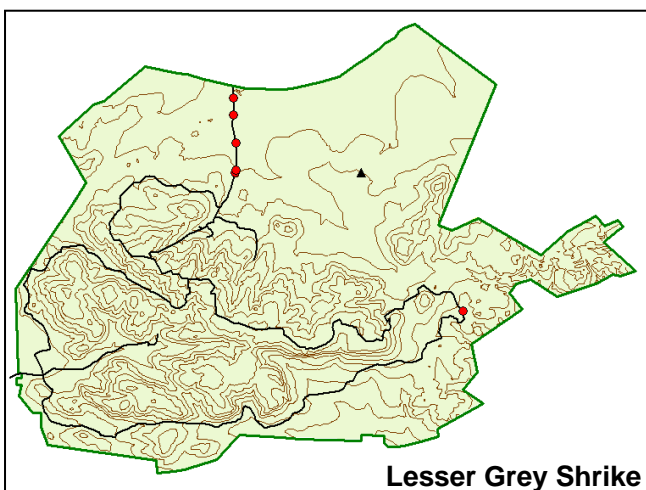


Snipe, African

Gallinago nigripennis

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Resident; probably breeds. Recorded in all months and during 89% of waterbird counts. Likely overlooked when not calling. Found around dams and in patches of mud and short grazed vegetation in wetlands. Only recorded once by Day (1975) for Elandsvlakte where the species is common. The addition of the northern extension has greatly increased the extent of habitat suitable for this species under protection. Up to 44 recorded during CWAC. Drumming displays heard but no further evidence of breeding.

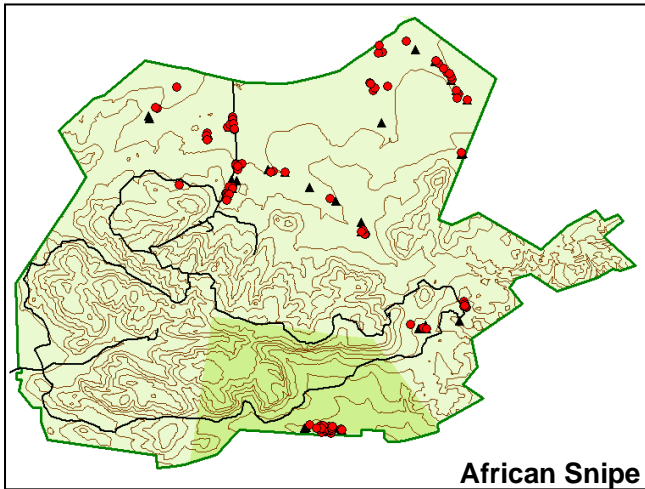


Shrike, Red-backed

Lanius collurio

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
49	8	3*



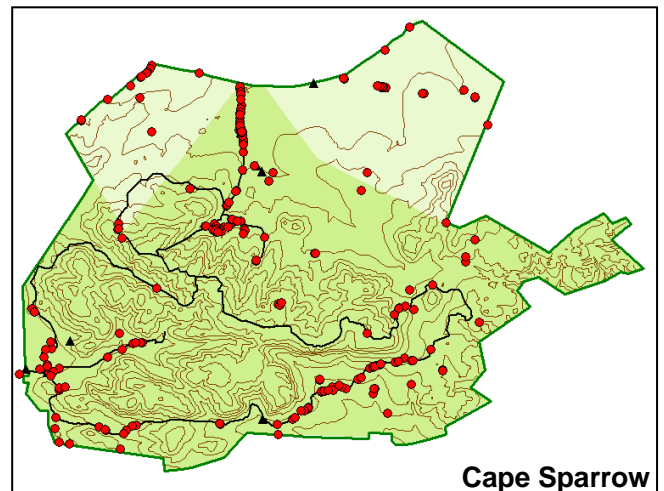
Sparrow, Cape

Passer melanurus

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Breeding resident. Widespread but rarely in kloof bush and rocky shrubland. Usually solitary or in pairs, but occasionally found in groups (≤ 7). Seen carrying nesting material in May, June, and September. Active around completed nests in April, September, and November. Breeding reported in November and December (Day 1975, BIRP 2012). None of the 27 individuals ringed on the reserve were subsequently recaptured despite a multi-year trapping effort (SAFRING).

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
92	46	74*



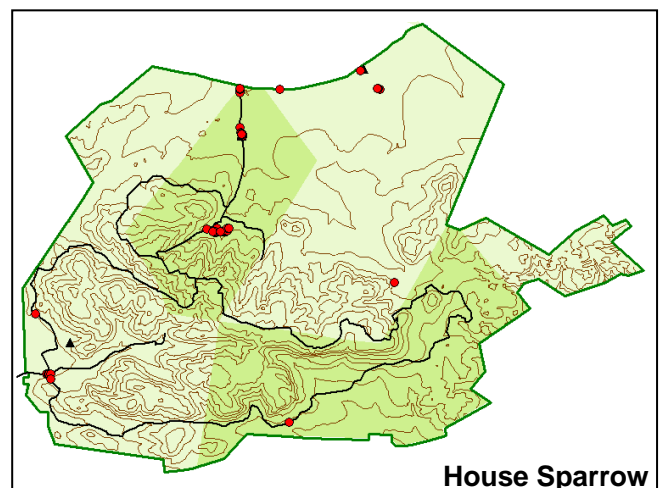
Sparrow, House

Passer domesticus

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Breeding resident. Naturalised alien. Solitary, in pairs or small flocks (≤ 9). Largely restricted to areas with man-made infrastructure. The status of nests found in December 2018 and 2022 could not be determined. Breeding was reported in March and November (BIRP 2012). Eleven were ringed, most at Kareekloof (SAFRING).

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
67	45	38

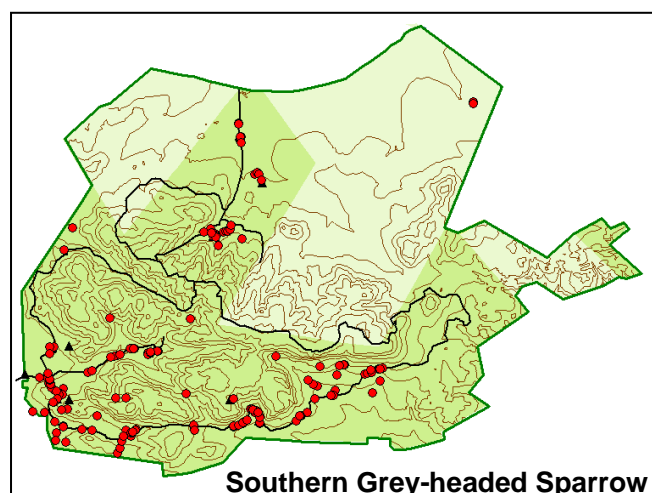


Sparrow, Southern Grey-headed
Passer diffusus

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Breeding resident. Widespread but absent from open grassland and rocky shrubland. Solitary, in pairs or small groups (≤ 10). A flock of 50 on 23 March 2021 was considered exceptional. Collection of nest material was observed on 20 February 2019 and 17 March 2022. Parents were seen with young on 19 November 2021. Day (1975), who recorded breeding in February, noted an absence of this species during winter which was not our experience though movements are suspected. Forty-one were ringed, most of these in the Kareekloof, and none were recaptured despite several years of netting in that area (SAFRING).

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
74	43	38*

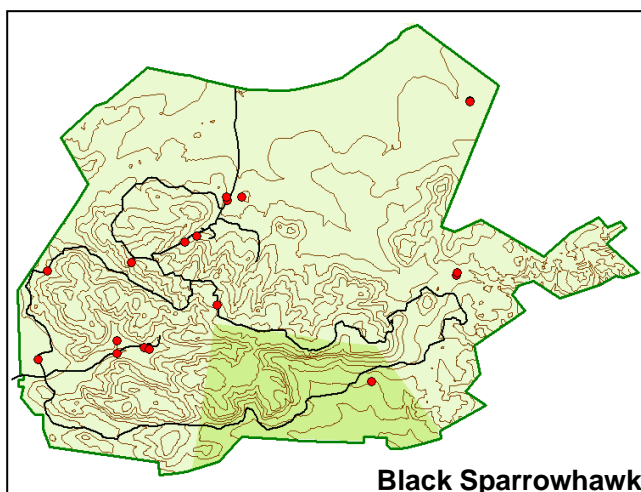


Sparrowhawk, Black
Accipiter melanoleucus

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Probably resident in the broader agricultural landscape around the reserve where there are ample large alien trees for nesting and abundant prey. Widespread, absent only from rocky shrubland. Mainly solitary adults, but at least one juvenile. First observed in the south of the reserve by S. Wolff in July and August 1973 (Day 1975). Most recently seen at Mayfair on 16 November 2023.

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
17	0	0



Sparrowhawk, Little
Accipiter minullus

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Vagrant. Our only sighting was in kloof bush at Holhoek on 15 February 2018.

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
1	<1	0

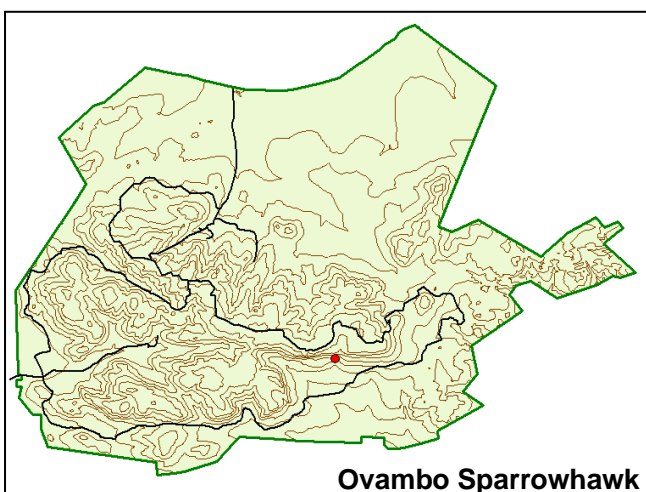


Sparrowhawk, Ovambo
Accipiter ovampensis

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Vagrant. CWJ recorded a juvenile over kloof bush near Steenbok hut on 25 August 2022.

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
1	0	0

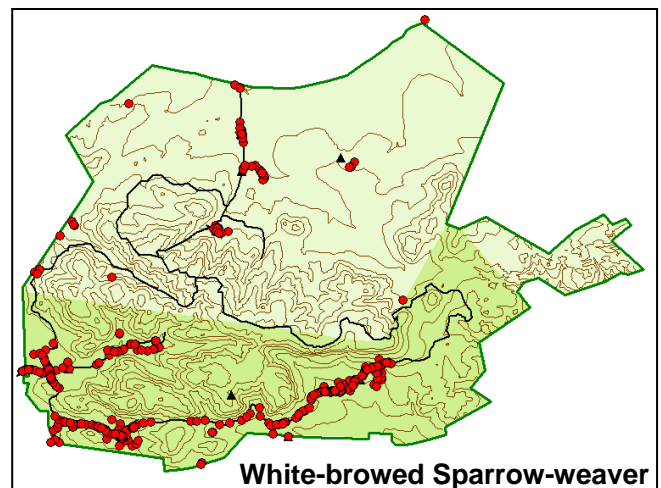


Sparrow-weaver, White-browed
Plocepasser mahali

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Breeding resident but an erratic visitor in the 1980s (Anon 1986). Often associated with patches of thorn trees. Most common in the south and west. Solitary and in small groups (≤ 7) but nest density suggests this is an undercount. Day (1975) recorded flocks of up to 20. Nests are used year-round and are not indicative of breeding. Seen carrying nest material during October to May. Breeding reported in January, February, and November (BIRP 2012). Two were ringed (SAFRING).

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
93	44	30*



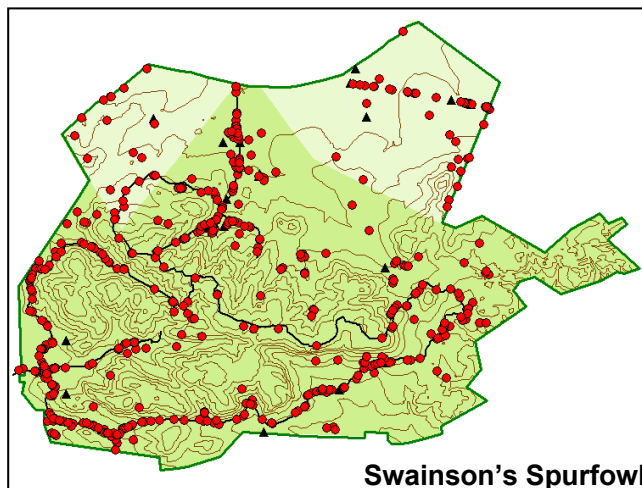
Spoonbill, African
Platalea alba

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Visitor. Only recorded during 14% of waterbird counts. First seen by CWJ on

11 November 2003. Suitable shallow water habitat is largely restricted to the various dams on the northern extension. Usually solitary, three together once. Up to three were counted during CWAC.

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
99	71	74*



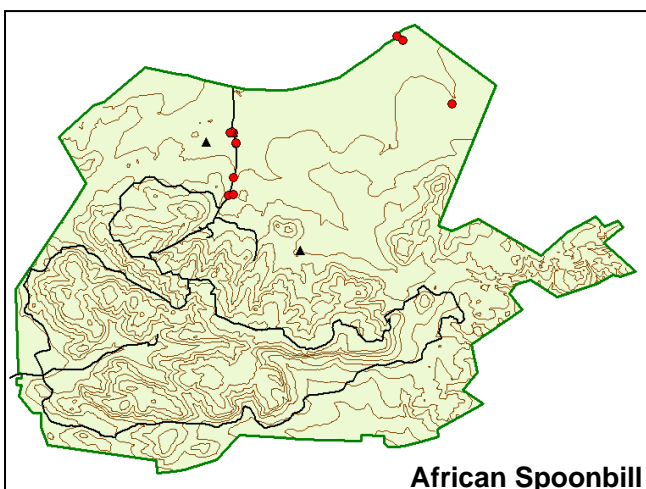
Starling, Cape Glossy
Lamprotornis nitens

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Breeding resident. Occurs mainly in steep-slope grassland and sweet thorn savannah. Usually solitary or in pairs but rarely groups (≤ 16). Seen carrying nesting material in October 2018. One was ringed (SAFRING).

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
84	17	0

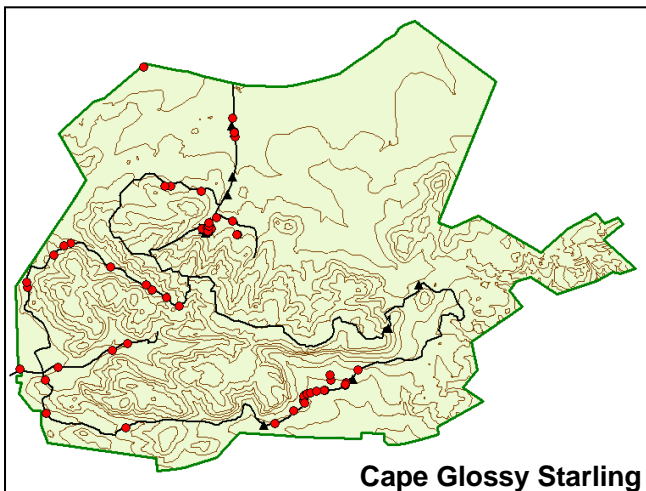
REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
12	1	0



Spurfowl, Swainson's
Pternistis swainsonii

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Breeding resident. Widespread, only absent from kloof bush and rare in rocky shrubland. Solitary, in pairs and small groups (≤ 6). Up to twelve were counted on a single day, likely to be a considerable underestimate. Day (1975) recorded mainly pairs but flocks of ten in winter. Parents were seen with young in April and May. S. Wolff reported breeding during February to April (Day 1975). Eighty-one were ringed, most in the Elandsvlakte area during the 1970s (56 in 1974 alone). One was recovered a day after it was ringed (SAFRING).

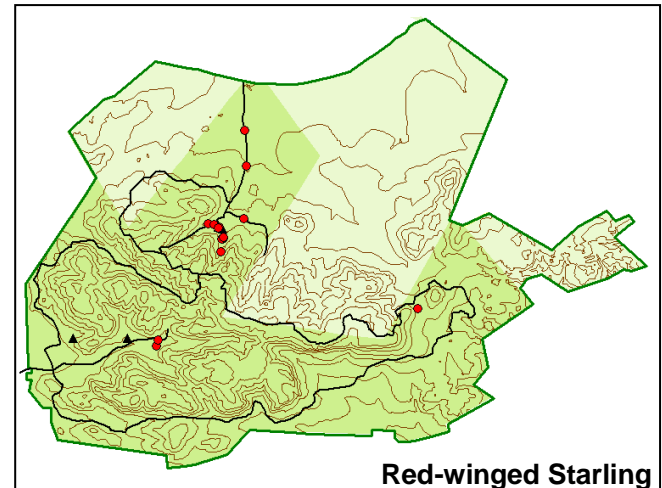


Starling, Red-winged
Onychognathus morio

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Probable resident; has bred. Occurrence localised with most sightings around buildings at Diepkloof visitor (administrative) centre, Kiepersol camp and Kareekloof resort. Solitary, in pairs and up to three together. Day (1975) recorded flocks of as many as 20 and breeding was observed by S. Wolff at Diepkloof in November and December. Three were ringed in the Kareekloof (SAFRING).

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
20	10	38*



Starling, Violet-backed
Cinnyricinclus leucogaster

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

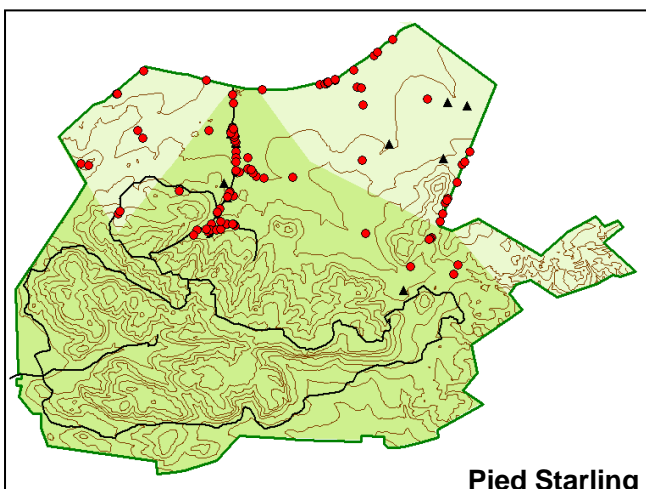
Visitor. Restricted to wooded habitats in the south and west. Solitary or in pairs. S. Wolff observed two males near Sedaven in June 1973 (Day 1975). Our

Starling, Pied
Lamprotornis bicolor

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

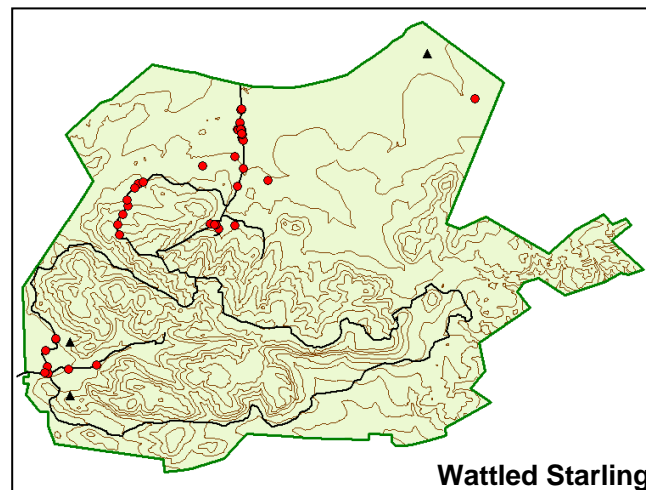
Resident; has bred. Most records are for plains grassland and old lands in the north. Solitary, in pairs and groups (4-50). A flock of 160 birds recorded on 26 April 2021 was very unusual. Breeding was recorded in December by Day (1975). Four have been ringed (SAFRING).

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
72	48	58*



records include a sighting at Holhoek picnic site on 6 December 2018, a pair in the same area on 14 November 2019 and four sightings in 2021, the most recent being on 29 October 2021.

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
28	19	0

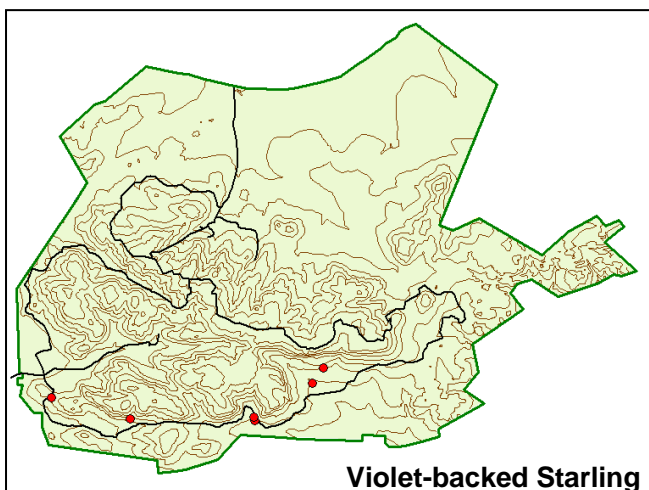


Stilt, Black-winged
Himantopus himantopus

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Vagrant. Only recorded during 14% of waterbird counts. First seen on 12 June 2013 and then at least once a year until 2017. Restricted to dams on the northern extension. Solitary, in pairs and on one occasion three were seen together. Up to three were recorded during CWAC. Last seen on 14 February 2020 by D. Koen.

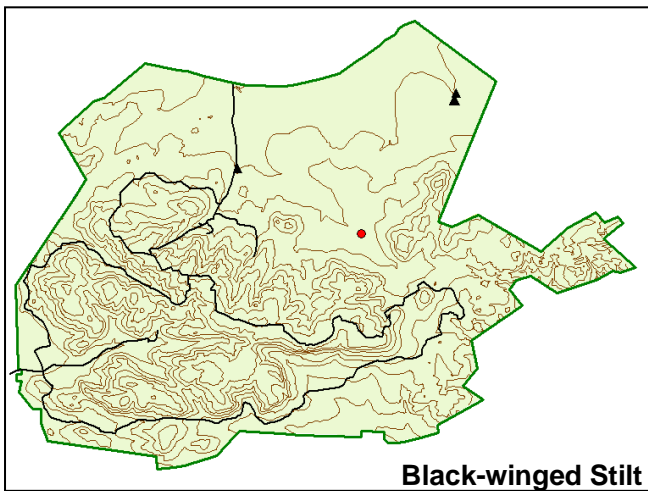
REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
8	0	0



Starling, Wattle
Creatophora cinerea

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Visitor. Considered a vagrant in the 1980s (Anon 1986). Found in low-lying grassland and sweet thorn savannah. Small groups and large, loose flocks. Either seen in low flight or perched over several trees in the same area. Over a thousand were counted on 7 July and 15 September 2022 and several thousand on 9 June 2023. Recent sightings of large flocks moving northwest through the vicinity of Diepkloof gate at dawn suggest there may be a communal roost nearby. Fifteen were ringed (SAFRING).



Black-winged Stilt

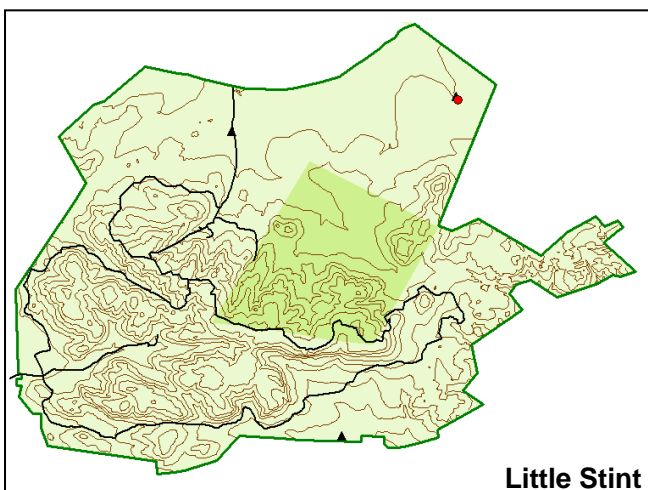
Stint, Little

Calidris minuta

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Vagrant. Only recorded during 18% of summer waterbird counts. An individual was recorded on Valsfontein in November 1970 by Day (1975). None were recorded during BIRP but there were seven subsequent sightings by D. Koen and us. Most recently on 14 March 2019. Up to two were counted during CWAC.

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
1	0	3*



Little Stint

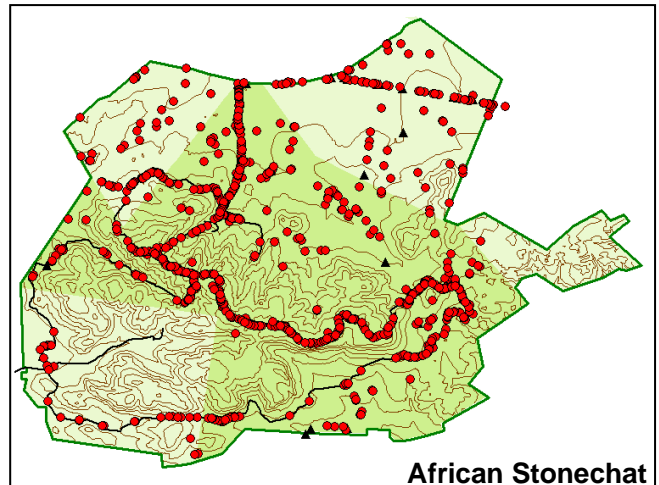
Stonechat, African

Saxicola torquatus

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Breeding resident. Found in grassy habitat throughout the reserve. Usually solitary or in pairs but occasionally in small groups (≤ 4). Recorded widely and regularly during the first year of the original survey, but only four times during the second (Day 1975). Parents with young and unaccompanied juveniles were seen in November to February. S. Wolff also reported breeding in September (Day 1975).

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
99	98	54*



African Stonechat

Stork, Abdim's

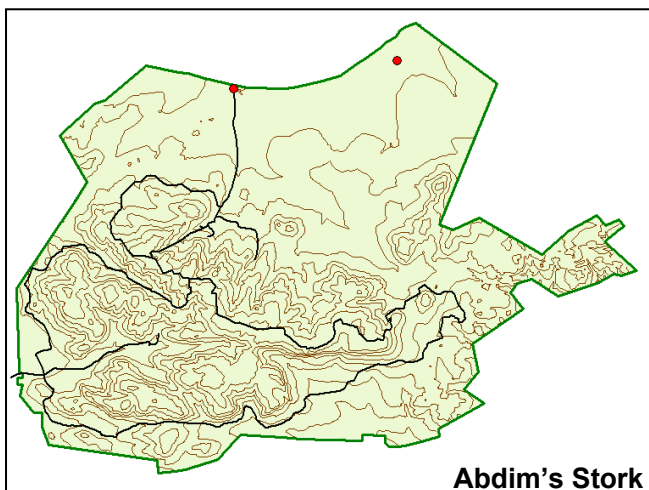
Ciconia abdimii NT, LC

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Vagrant. First recorded during BIRP. Subsequently seen on 18 March 2019 and then most recently by D. Koen on 14 August 2022 who reported three in

burnt grassland on the northern extension.

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
1	<1	0



Stork, Black

Ciconia nigra

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Vagrant. Only recorded twice, first during BIRP. With D. Koen we subsequently saw an adult wading in the dam at the entrance to the derelict Kareekloof resort on 2 November 2023.

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
0	<1	0

[No map]

Stork, Marabou

Leptoptilos crumenifer

Vagrant. An individual was seen on the reserve in the early 2000s by D. Koen. We subsequently saw another roosting near the Platkop landfill site just north of

the reserve on 17 March 2022. There were three other records for two pentads that overlap the reserve during SABAP2.

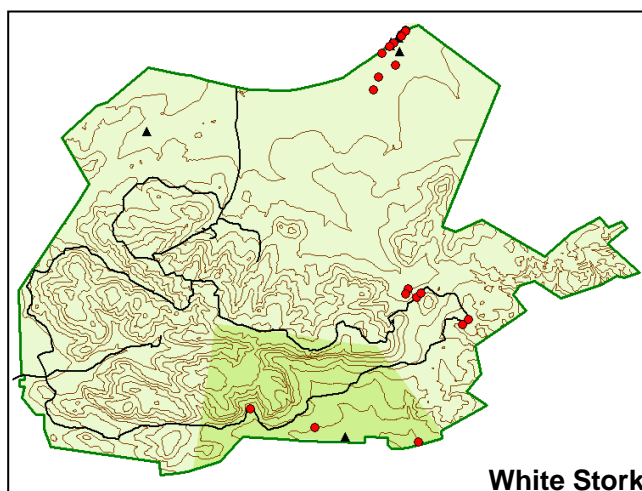
Stork, White

Ciconia ciconia

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Palaearctic migrant. Mainly recorded during the rainy season but with sightings in June to August in some years. Day (1975) recorded an individual in the Elandsvlakte area on 18 October 1970. Up to 20 were recorded during CWAC and 122 during CAR. The storks are attracted to the Platkop landfill site and most records for the reserve are for the north-eastern corner of the extension. Rarely seen elsewhere and then only in flight. One was ringed on 15 March 1988 in the Elandsvlakte area and three, presumably rehabilitated birds, were released during January 2007 (SAFRING).

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
16	<1	2



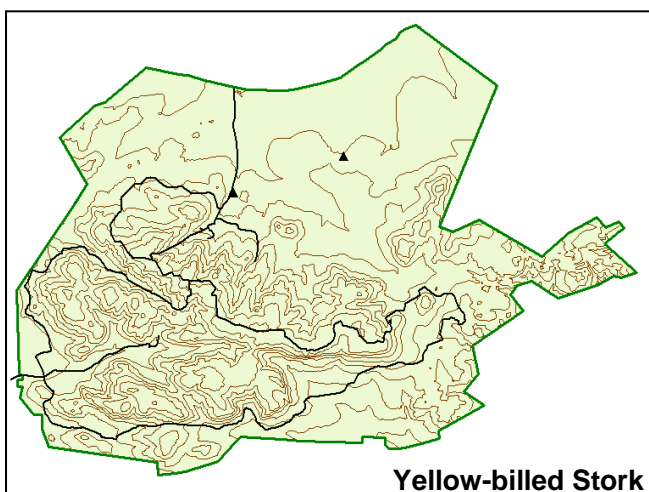
Stork, Yellow-billed

Mycteria ibis

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Vagrant. Individuals were recorded at dams on the northern extension on 16 November 2003 and 20 January 2010. There were three records for a single pentad that overlaps the reserve during SABAP2, most recently on 3 February 2019.

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
0	<1	0



Sunbird, Amethyst

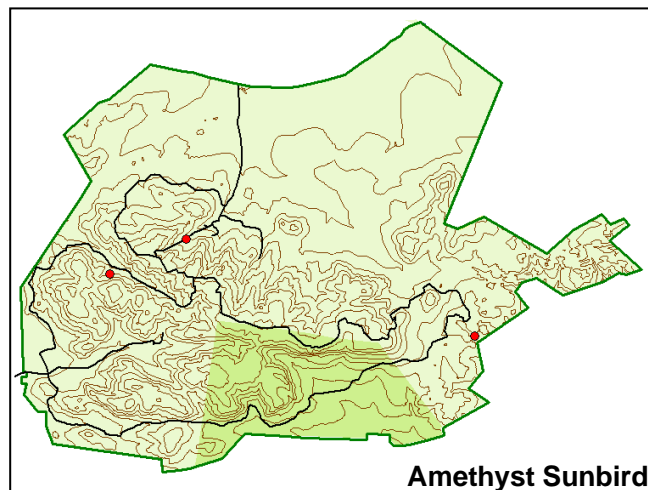
Chalcomitra amethystina

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Vagrant. Found in steep-slope grassland and rocky shrubland. Solitary. Recorded twice south of the ridge in 1971 by Day (1975). There were ten records during BIRP and just three widely scattered sightings during our surveys, most recently on 10 December 2021.

REPORTING RATES

2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
4	5	4*



Sunbird, Greater Double-collared

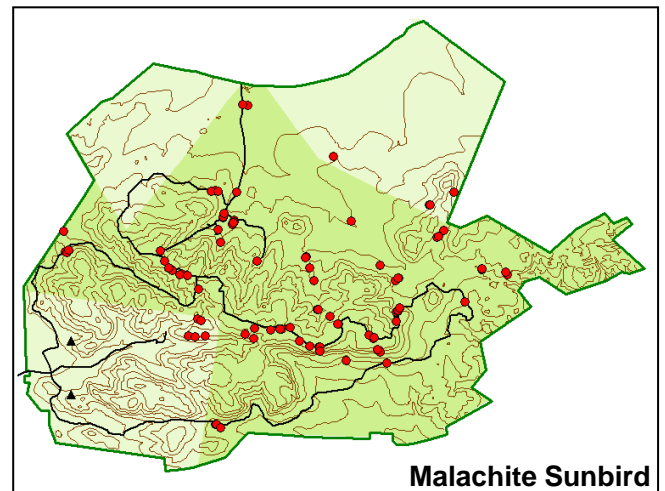
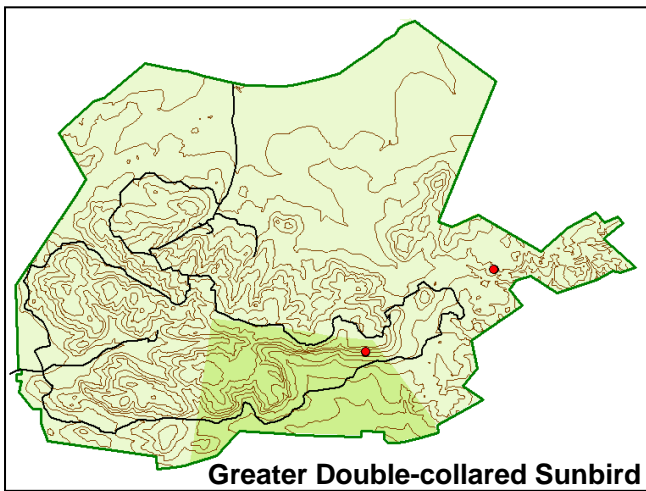
Cinnyris afer

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Vagrant. Recorded at Elandsvlakte by S. Wolff in August and September 1974 (Day 1975) and next by D. Koen on 12 July 2007. Our sightings are for kloof bush on 13 February 2019 and 21 February 2020.

REPORTING RATES

2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
3	0	0



Sunbird, Malachite
Nectarinia famosa

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Breeding resident. Widespread and seemingly only absent from sweet thorn savannah. Unexpectedly rare in rocky shrubland despite the high concentration of proteas and tree fuchsia (*Haleria* sp.). Usually solitary, but 14 were seen foraging with White-bellied Sunbirds in a large patch of flowering wild dagga (*Leonotus* sp.) in an abandoned horse paddock on 6 April 2021. A courtship display was observed on 10 November 2022. Day (1975) recorded breeding activity in December and January. Three were ringed in the Kareekloof area in September 2007 and 2014 (SAFRING) where despite the abundance of aloes we have not recorded this species.

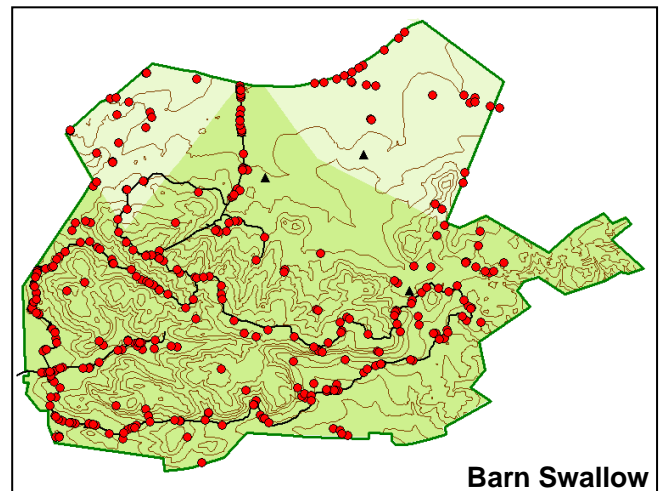
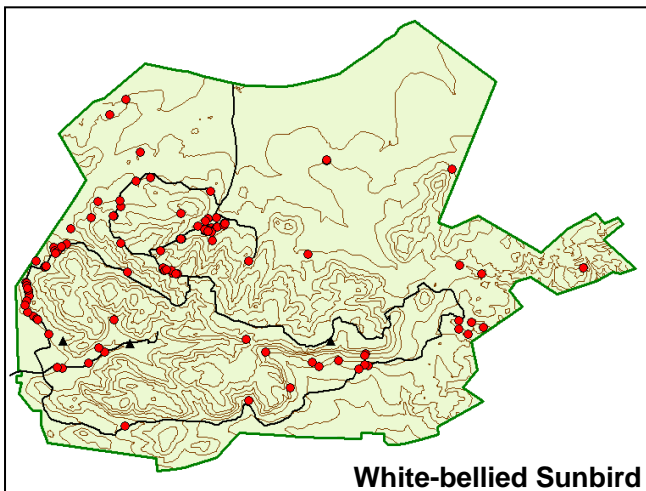
REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
41	36	60*

Sunbird, White-bellied
Cinnyris talatala

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

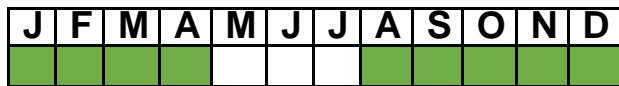
Breeding resident. Widespread and found in all habitats except open grassland and old lands. Solitary, in pairs, and rarely in groups at abundant food sources. Ten were recorded together with Malachite Sunbirds on 18 May 2022 in a large stand of wild dagga. Seen carrying nest material on 8 July 2022. Breeding was also reported for November (BIRP 2012). Two have been ringed (SAFRING).

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
64	8	0



Swallow, Barn

Hirundo rustica



Palearctic migrant. Mainly present during October to April but with one report for August during BIRP and two for September. Forages throughout the reserve and northern extension and over all habitats. Roosts in reed beds. Perches conspicuously on fences and wires where flocks of up to 600 were counted. ‘Thousands’ were seen milling over Diepkloof on 8 December 2022 before a storm.

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
51	48	48*

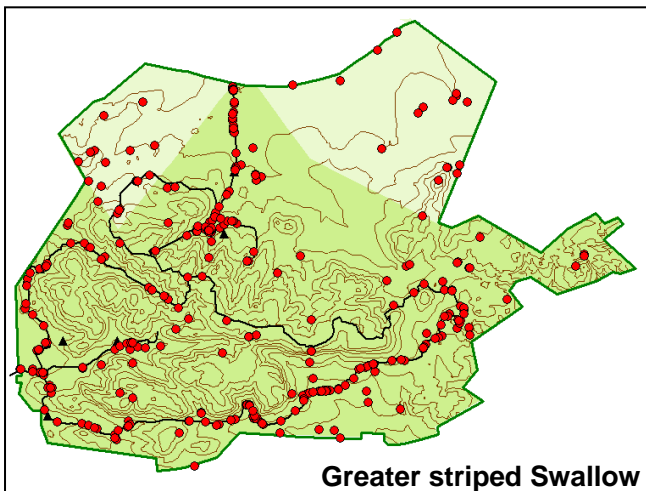
Swallow, Greater Striped

Cecropis cucullata



Intra-African breeding migrant. Forages throughout the reserve and northern extension and over all habitats. Usually solitary, in pairs or small groups (≤ 20), often in mixed flocks with other aerial feeders. Single species aggregations of 30 seen on the tar road south of the Diepkloof gate and 124 in the Diepkloof parking area shortly thereafter on 25 January 2023 were very unusual. Breeding activity including mud collection and nest building was observed during October to February. Day (1975) also recorded breeding in March. Five were ringed (SAFRING).

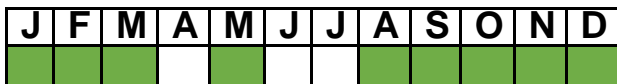
REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
63	57	38*



Visitor; may breed. Our records are for Mayfair on 18 September 2020 and 8 July 2021 and for Elandsvlakte on 29 September and 19 November 2021. Solitary but up to three have been together. A pair perched in a tree next to an old Aardvark or Porcupine burrow in late September 2021 could have been contemplating breeding.

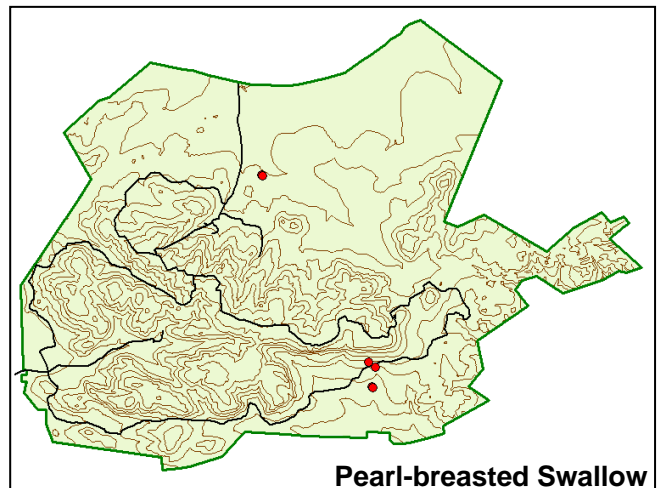
REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
5	<1	0

Swallow, Lesser Striped
Cecropis abyssinica



Intra-African migrant. Recorded over plains grassland and old lands. Solitary or two together. Last seen on 19 November 2021.

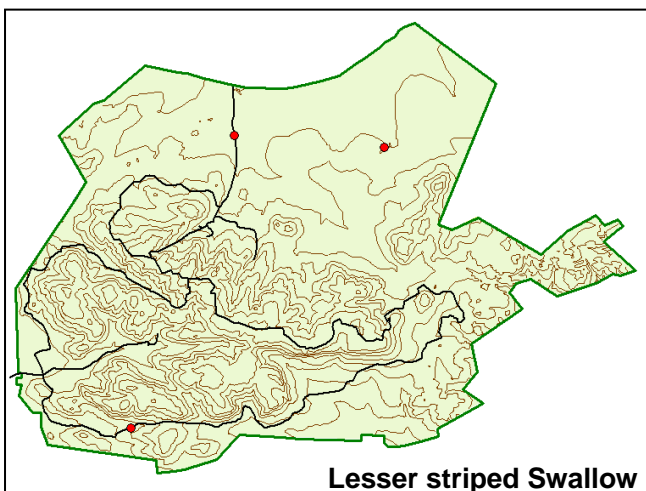
REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
4	7	0



Swallow, South African Cliff
Petrochelidon spilodera



Intra-African breeding migrant. Mainly seen during July to April but with a record for May during BIRP. Sightings were often over wetlands and watercourses in low-lying plains grassland and old lands. Day (1975) recorded the species once in December 1970. A juvenile was seen on 18 March 2019 and a newly completed nest was found on 2 December 2022. Breeding was also reported for January (BIRP

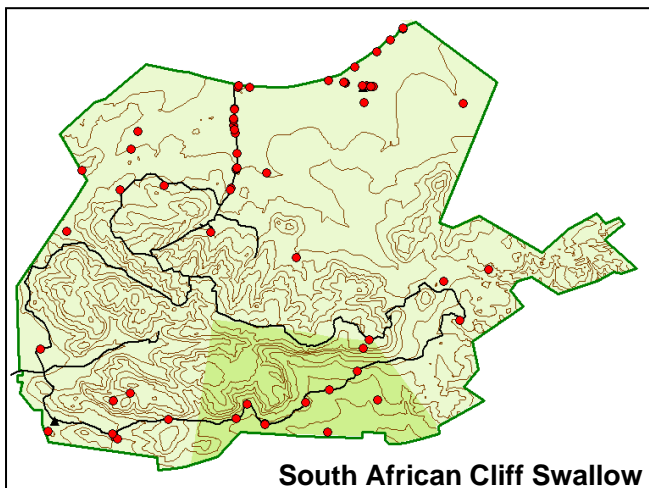


Swallow, Pearl-breasted
Hirundo dimidiata



2012). Difficult to count in mixed flocks but over 50 were recorded at a nest site along the Eendracht Road in December 2022.

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
45	8	2*

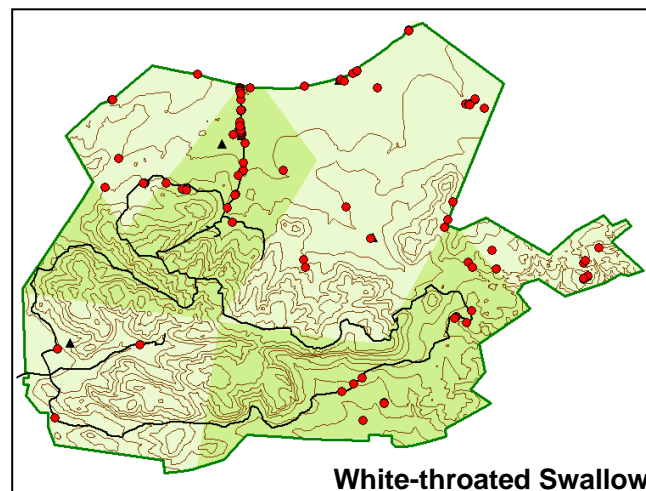


Swallow, White-throated
Hirundo albigularis

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Intra-African migrant; has bred. Widespread, often near open water. Found individually, in pairs and rarely in small groups (≤ 5). Day (1975) recorded breeding during November. One was ringed on 11 September 2014 in the Kareekloof area (SAFRING).

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
62	21	28

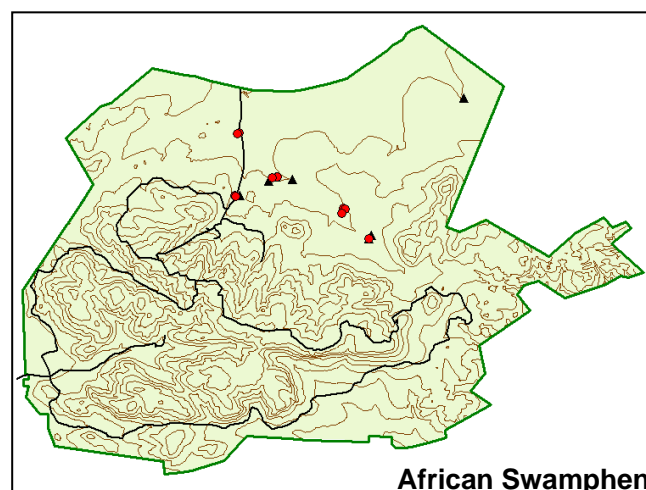


Swamphen, African (Purple)
Porphyrio madagascariensis

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Possible breeding resident. First observed by CWJ on 11 November 2003. Recorded during 31% of waterbird counts. Appears to be restricted to reed fringed dams on the northern extension and probably overlooked. Up to six counted during CWAC. D. Koen recorded breeding in February 2015.

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
7	<1	0



Swift, African Black

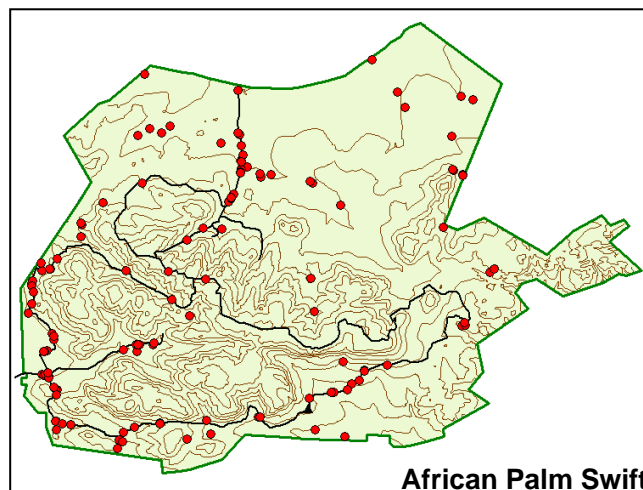
Apus barbatus

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Visitor. Not easily distinguished from the Common Swift and both species are likely under-recorded during November-March. Day (1975) grouped the two black swifts and reported 50 in December 1970 and three in December 1971. May breed at Feeskrans but efforts to get close enough to confirm this were unsuccessful. Up to 10 were recorded in a mixed flock with other aerial species.

within the reserve but probably not uncommon in the broader landscape.

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
68	2	0



REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
14	5	4*

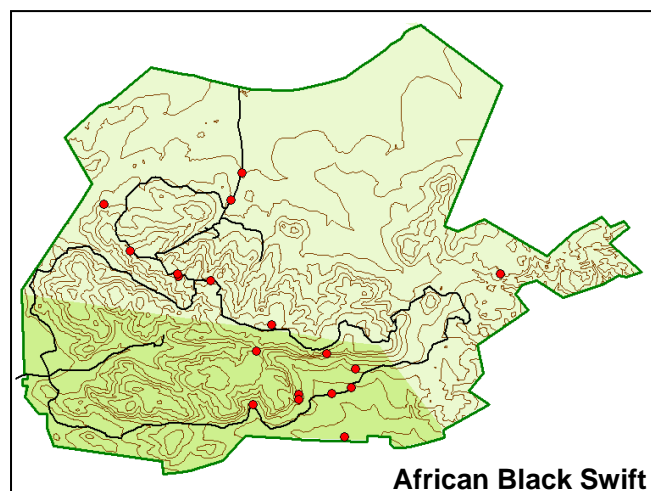
Swift, Alpine

Tachymarptis melba

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Vagrant. Reported for March and August during BIRP. Our sightings on 28 September 2019 and 12 February 2021 were of individuals over steep-slope grassland.

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
3	2	0

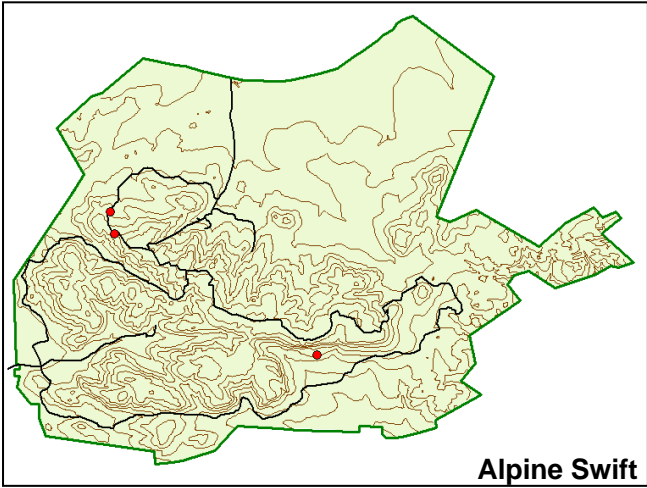


Swift, African Palm

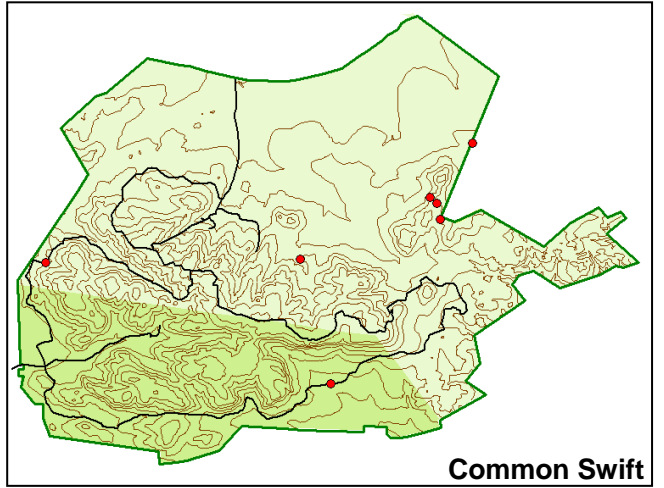
Cypsiurus parvus

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Resident. Widespread, but rarely seen over kloof bush. Seldom counted with flocks of up to 11 on occasion. Palm trees suitable for breeding are rare



Alpine Swift



Common Swift

Swift, Common

Apus apus

Swift, Horus

Apus horus

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

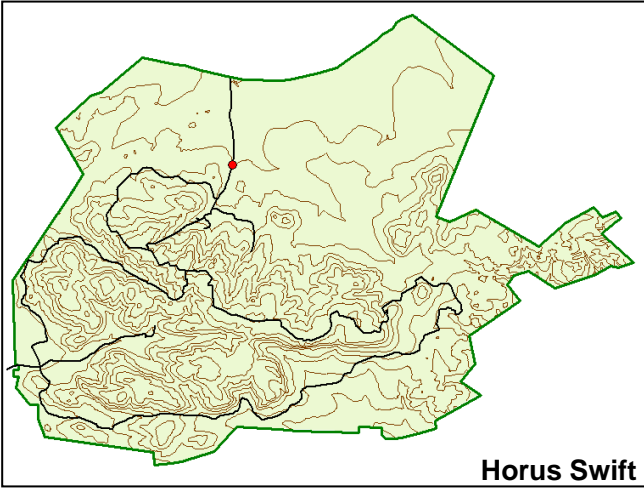
J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Palaearctic migrant. Mainly seen during November-March. Reports for August and September during BIRP were likely misidentified sightings of African Black Swift. Several large, grey-brown swifts with short, forked tails were seen foraging in a mixed species flock over steep-slope grassland on the eastern boundary of the extension on 29 November 2021. Initially thought to be Bradfield's Swifts, these were more likely a rare Asian morph of the Common Swift.

Intra-African migrant; has bred. An individual seen on 10 December 2021 was the only record for our survey. Breeding was reported for January (BIRP 2012).

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
1	2	0

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
4	1	4*



Horus Swift

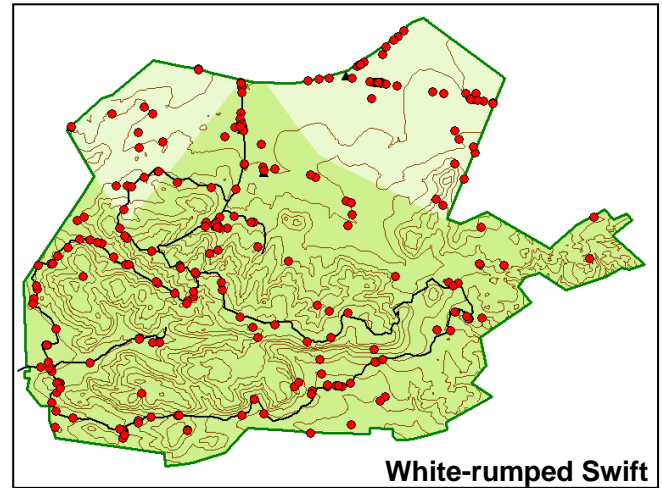
Swift, Little

Apus affinis

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Resident. Widespread over all habitats. Flocks of up to 50 were recorded during our surveys and by Day (1975).

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
61	38	10*



White-rumped Swift

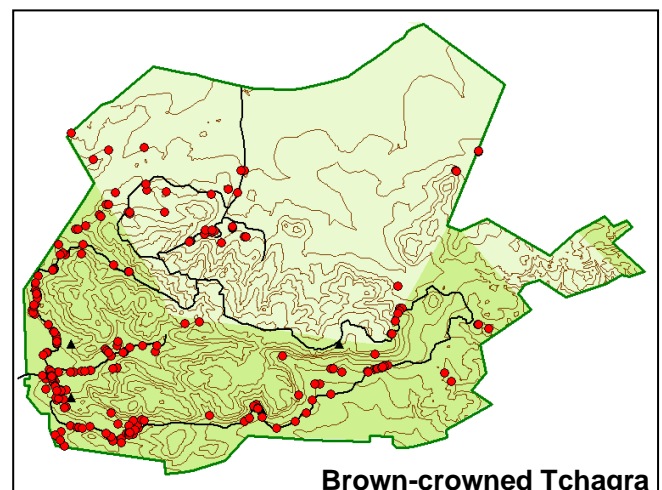
Tchagra, Brown-crowned

Tchagra australis

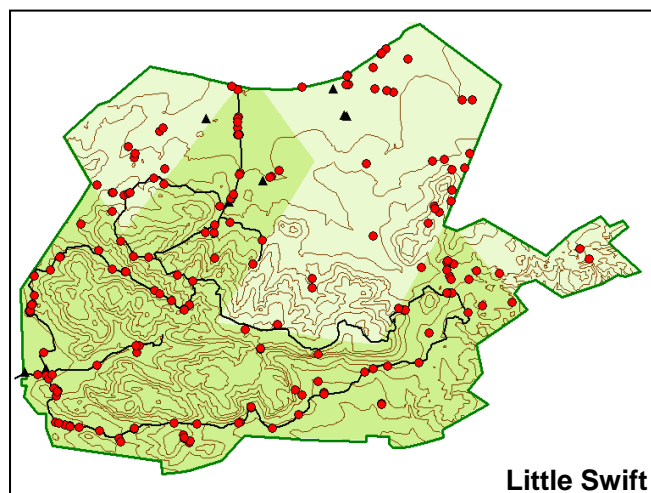
J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Resident. Widespread in wooded habitat but most common in sweet thorn savannah. Solitary or in pairs. Readily detected on distinctive call but less often seen. An individual ringed in the Kareekloof area was subsequently recaptured (within 2 months) in the same vicinity (SAFRING).

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
68	22	26*



Brown-crowned Tchagra



Little Swift

Swift, White-rumped

Apus caffer

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

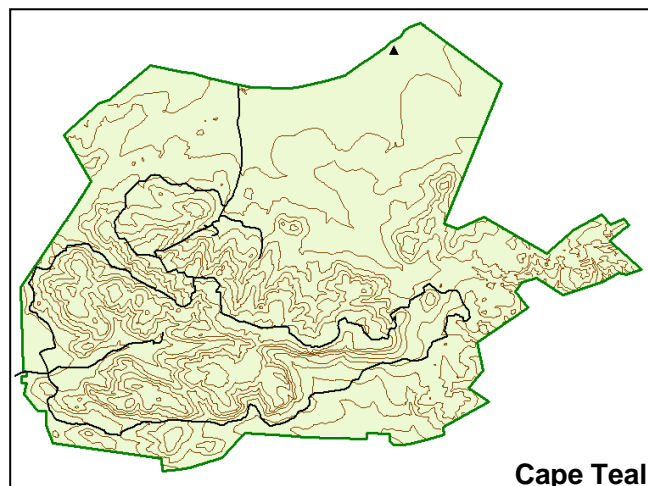
Intra-African migrant. Widespread over all habitats. Recorded between October and April by Day (1975). Sightings for June and August during BIRP appear to be errors and were excluded. Solitary, in small groups and large flocks (≤ 100), often together with other aerial feeders.

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
68	52	30*

Teal, Blue-billed (Hottentot)
Anas hottentota

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Vagrant. Recorded twice during BIRP (2012) and once by D. Koen, an individual at a dam on the northern extension on 17 July 2020. There were ten records for three pentads that overlap the reserve during SABAP2, most recently on 29 September 2022.

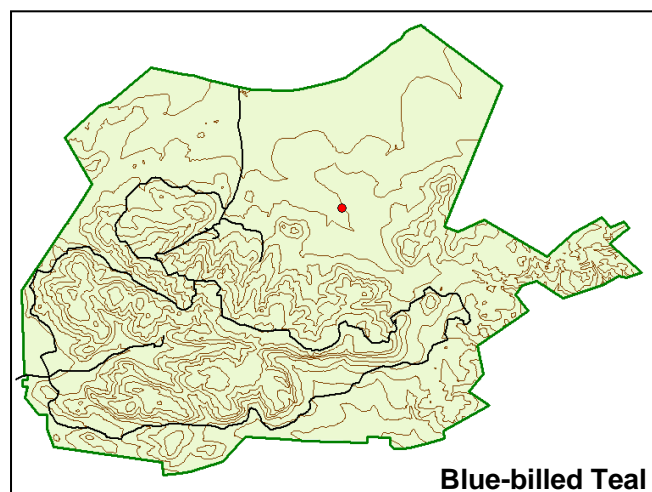


REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
0	<1	0

Teal, Red-billed
Anas erythrorhyncha

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Visitor. Recorded in all months but only on 60% of waterbird counts. Mainly found on dams on the northern extension. Often in pairs, occasionally solitary or in small flocks (≤ 7). Day (1975) likewise recorded mainly pairs but also one flock of 20 in December 1971. Up to 14 were recorded during CWAC.

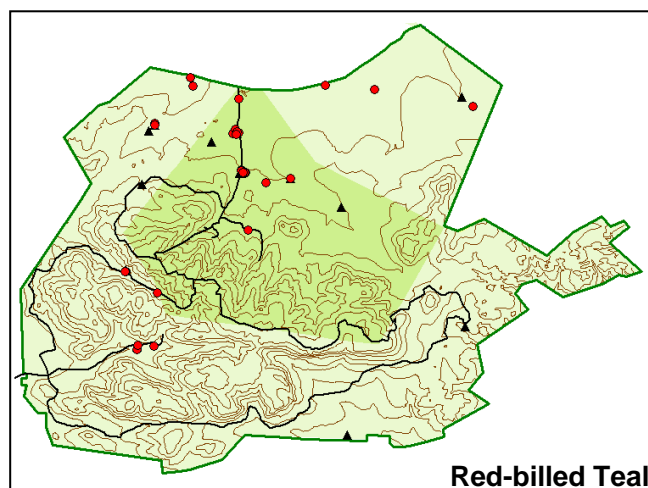


REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
22	2	8*

Teal, Cape
Anas capensis

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Vagrant. First recorded by D. Koen on 17 August 2004. Subsequently by CWJ on 23 June 2014 and 20 July 2017. The last was an individual flushed from a small pond on the northern extension during owl surveys. There were 40 records for three pentads that overlap the reserve during SABAP2.



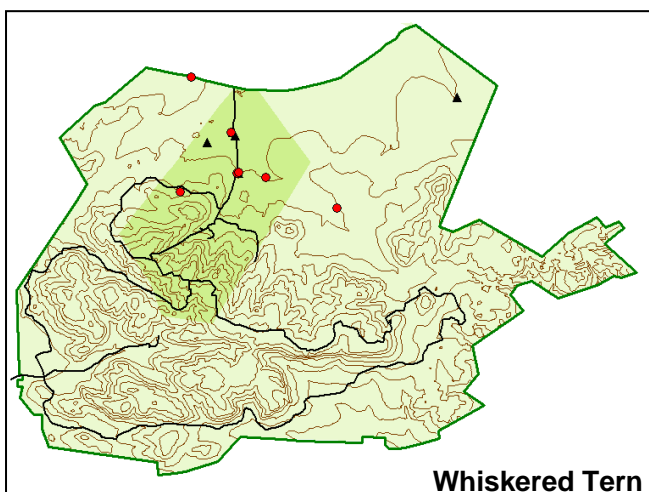
Tern, Whiskered

Chlidonias hybrida

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Intra-African migrant. Recorded on 41% of summer waterbird counts. Day (1975) saw a pair of terns (either Whiskered or White-winged) at Evergreen Ranch in February and March 1972. Most subsequent records were for dams on the northern extension. Often solitary but also two or three together. Up to five were counted during CWAC.

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
7	0	?



Tern, White-winged

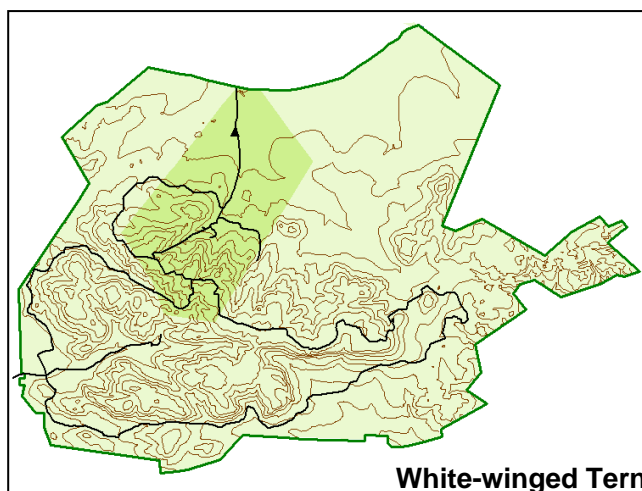
Chlidonias leucopterus

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Vagrant. Recorded on only 6% of summer waterbird counts. Day (1975) saw a pair of terns (either Whiskered or White-winged) at Evergreen Ranch in February and March 1972. An individual

was subsequently recorded on 16 February 2016 during CWAC. A breeding record for January (BIRP 2012) is an error but may indicate the presence of an adult in breeding plumage or a juvenile.

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
0	0	?



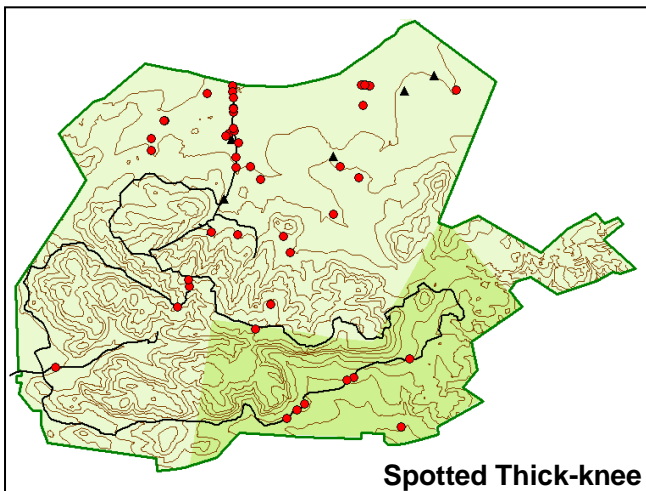
Thick-knee, Spotted

Burhinus capensis

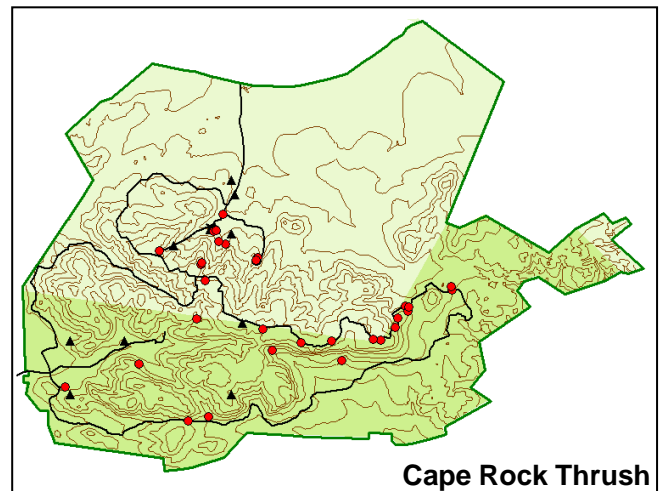
J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Resident; has bred. Widespread, mainly in open grassy habitats. Solitary, in pairs or small groups (≤ 5). Twelve were recorded along the main tourist route and the approach road to Kareekloof resort during a nocturnal survey in rainy conditions on 8 December 2022. S. Wolff recorded breeding in December 1973 (Day 1975).

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
33	13	6*



Spotted Thick-knee



Cape Rock Thrush

Thrush, Cape Rock
Monticola rupestris

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Breeding resident. Widespread, mainly in steep-slope and summit montane grassland and kloof bush. Solitary, in pairs and up to three together. Juvenile birds were recorded in February 2022 and parents were seen with a juvenile at Kiepersol camp on 8 December 2022. Breeding was also reported for January, September, and November (Day 1975, BIRP 2012). Thirteen were ringed at various localities. A young male ringed at Kareekloof on 22 May 1999 was recaptured as an adult in the same vicinity on 15 July 2005 (SAFRING).

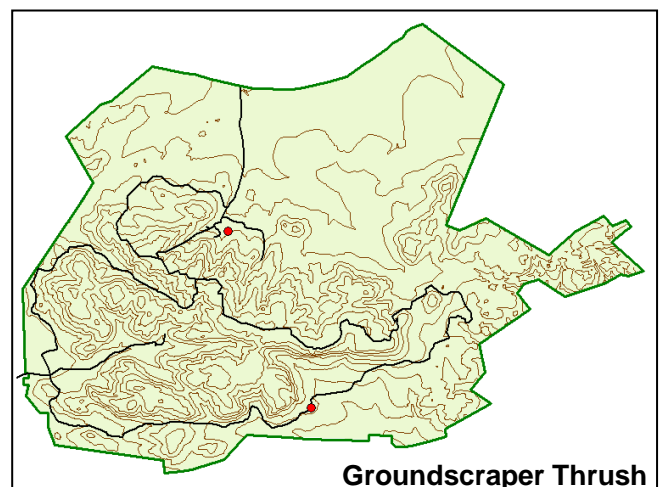
REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
33	52	36*

Thrush, Groundscraper
Turdus litsitsirupa

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Vagrant. Recorded for August during BIRP. D. Koen subsequently found an individual in steep-slope grassland near Diepkloof on 16 March 2021 and we saw one in the same habitat near Elandsvlakte on 23 August 2021.

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
1	1	0



Groundscraper Thrush

Thrush, Karoo

Turdus smithi

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Resident. Widespread in wooded habitats across the original reserve. The only record for the northern extension is from the garden of the ruined Koppieskraal homestead. Usually solitary, occasionally in pairs, one group of three. Suspected movements as none of the 51 ringed individuals were recaptured (SAFRING).

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
0	1	0

[No map]

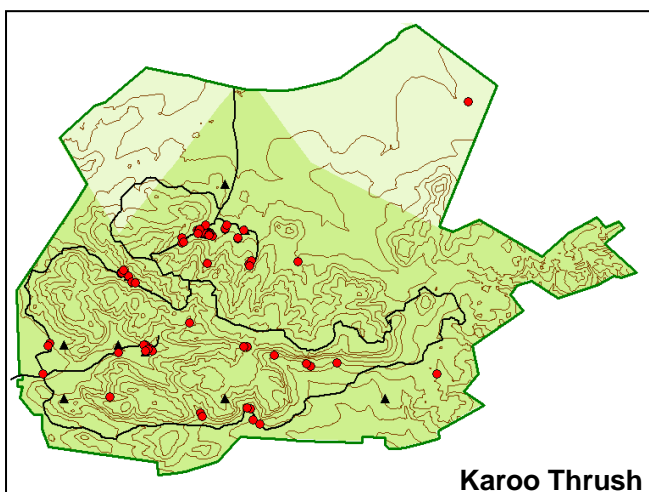
Thrush, Sentinel Rock

Monticola explorator LC, NT

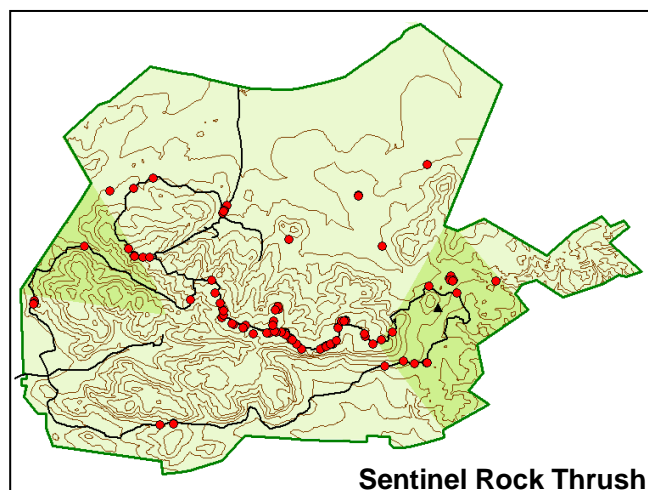
J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Altitudinal migrant. Mainly found in summit montane grassland with scattered records for lower altitudes. A BIRP record for December may be a misidentification of a Cape Rock Thrush. Recorded during May to October 1971 by Day (1975) but for low-lying grassland and kloof bush. Quite different to our experience. Usually solitary, occasionally two together. Seventeen were recorded along the tourist route on 23 June 2022.

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
47	29	78*



REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
21	30	12*



Thrush, Kurrichane

Turdus libonyana

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Vagrant. There was one record each for January and August during BIRP and 15 for four pentads that overlap the reserve during SABAP2, most recently on 21 April 2023.

Tinkerbird, Yellow-fronted
Pogoniulus chrysoconus

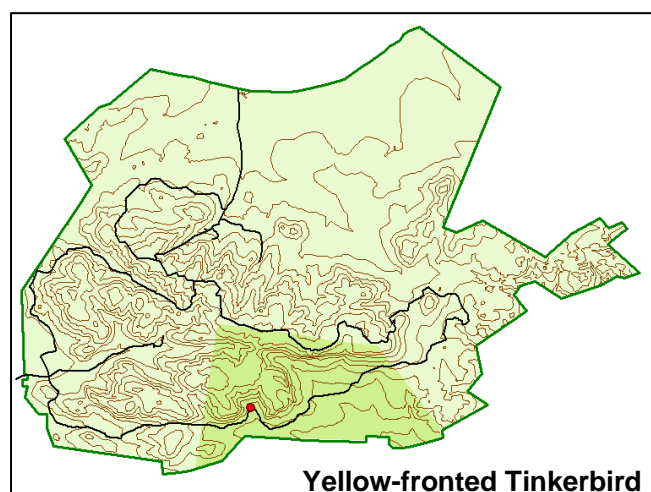
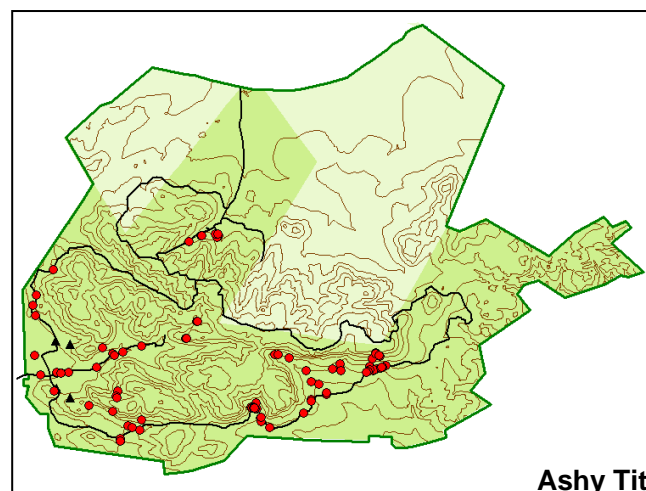
J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Vagrant. S. van Nierop recorded an individual near Holhoek in November 1970 (Day 1975). ID logged a record in a patch of kloof bush in the same general area on 31 May 2018, the only recent report despite an abundance of suitable habitat. There were four records during BIRP and none for pentads that overlap the reserve during SABAP2.

solitary or in pairs. Breeding was reported for December (BIRP 2012). An individual, presumably ringed elsewhere, was re-trapped at Kareekloof. None of the 20 birds ringed on the reserve were recaptured (SAFRING).

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
49	28	54*

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
1	2	2*



Turaco, Purple-crested
Tauraco porphyreolophus

Tit, Ashy
Parus cinerascens

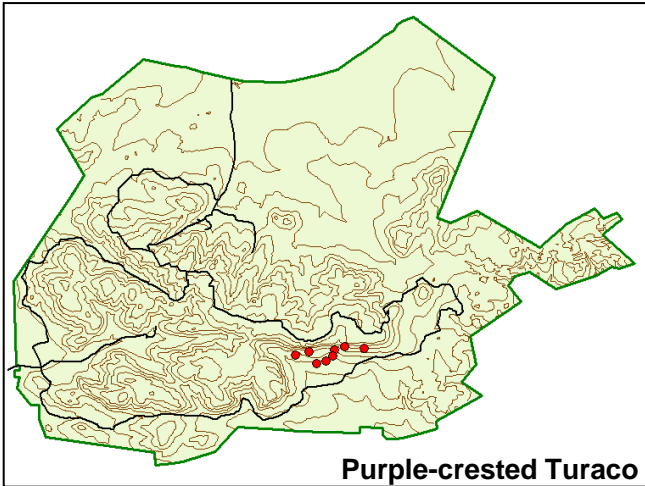
J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Resident; has bred. Found in wooded habitat throughout the reserve but mainly in kloof bush and sweet thorn savannah in the south and west; absent from the northern extension. Usually

Vagrant. We recorded an individual in kloof bush near Steenbok Hut on 13 February 2019, the suggestion that it might be an escaped aviary bird is discounted. The bird was not ringed and has since been recorded in the same area by us (8 February 2021, 18 March 2021, 19 November 2021, 13 December 2021, and 15 November 2022) and others (J. Kinghorn 13 November 2022). Not something expected of an aviary bird unsuited to life in the wild.

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
8	0	0



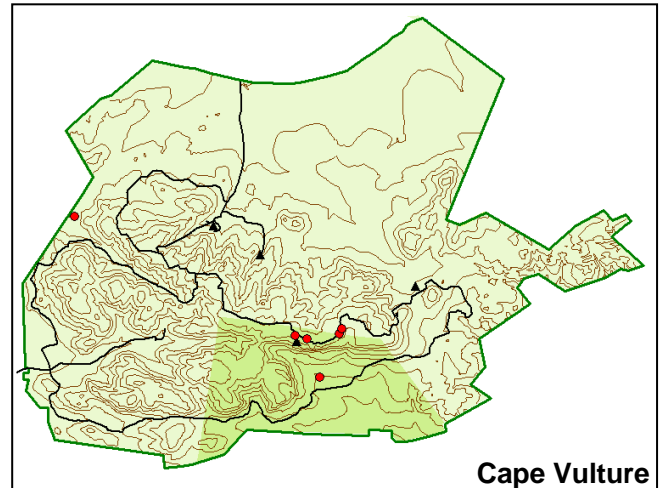
Vulture, Cape

Gyps coprotheres EN, EN

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Vagrant. Day (1975) reported irregular sightings of two or three on the cliffs above Elandsvlakte in September to December. Our ten subsequent records show no obvious seasonal pattern. One to six were seen.

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
4	2	6



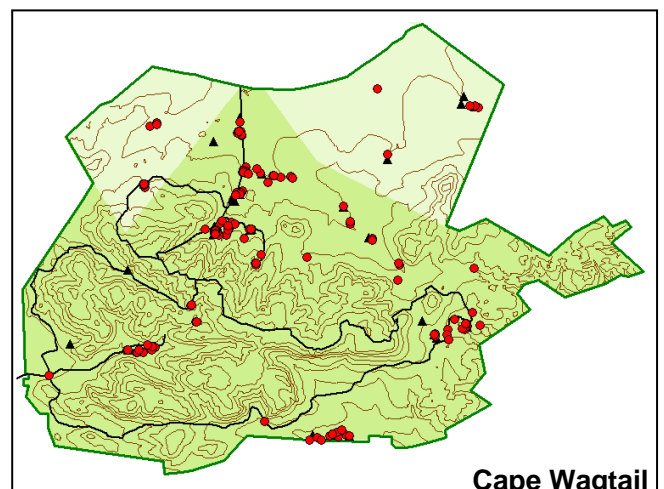
Wagtail, Cape

Motacilla capensis

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Resident; has bred. Widespread and in all habitats except summit montane grassland. Almost invariably found near water. Solitary or in pairs, occasionally three together. Up to 26 were recorded during CWAC. Day (1975) reporting breeding in August. Two were ringed (SAFRING).

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
84	75	58*



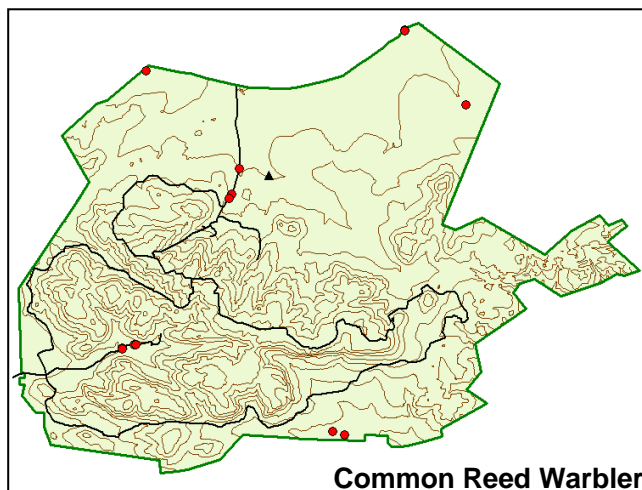
Warbler, Chestnut-vented
Curruca subcaeruleum

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Resident; has bred. Widespread in wooded habitats but most common in kloof bush and sweet thorn savannah. Usually solitary but up to four seen foraging in the same area. S. Wolff reported breeding in January 1972 (Day 1975). Approximately 60 individuals were ringed of which six were recaptured (1 month-6 years later) where they were originally trapped (SAFRING).

wetlands with reed beds. Ten were ringed (SAFRING).

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
11	<1	0



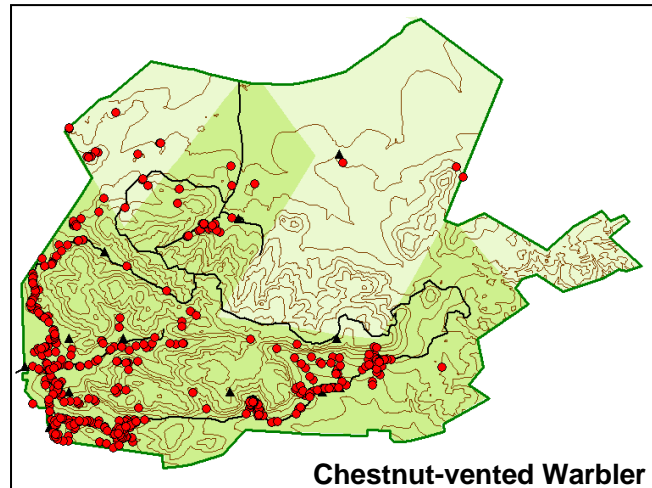
REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
88	58	46*

Warbler, Dark-capped (African) Yellow
Iduna natalensis

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Vagrant. We recorded an individual along a small bracken bordered stream through low rocky hills above Duiker hut on 20 February 2020.

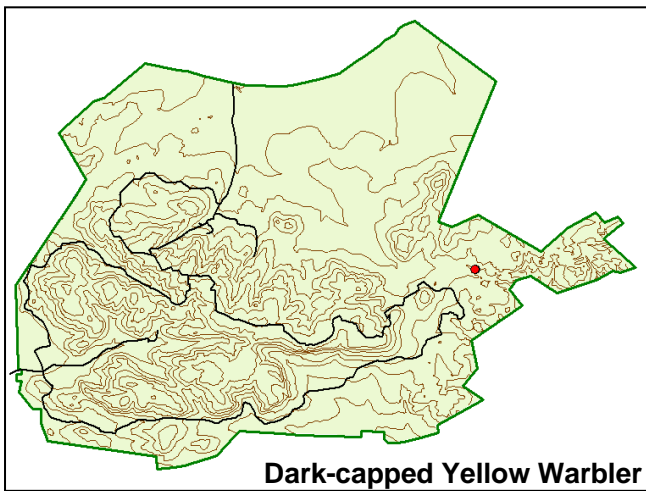
REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
1	0	0



Warbler, Common Reed
Acrocephalus scirpaceus

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Intra-African migrant. Heard mainly during October to March but with one record for September during BIRP. Widespread but largely restricted to

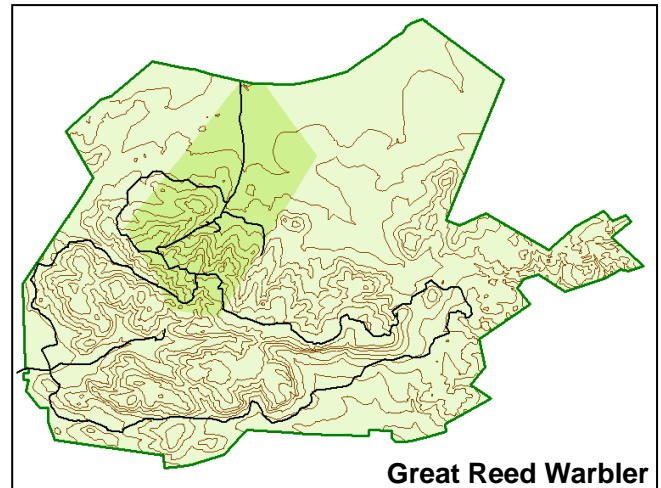


Warbler, Great Reed
Acrocephalus arundinaceus

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Vagrant. Day (1975) recorded one at Evergreen Ranch in March 1972; at that time the only area in the reserve with a reed bed. There is a further record for December during BIRP. CWJ recorded one calling from a stand of poplars just east of the reserve on 28 February 2008. There were four records for four pentads that overlap the reserve during SABAP2, most recently on 7 November 2021.

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
0	<1	3*



Warbler, Icterine
Hippolais icterina

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

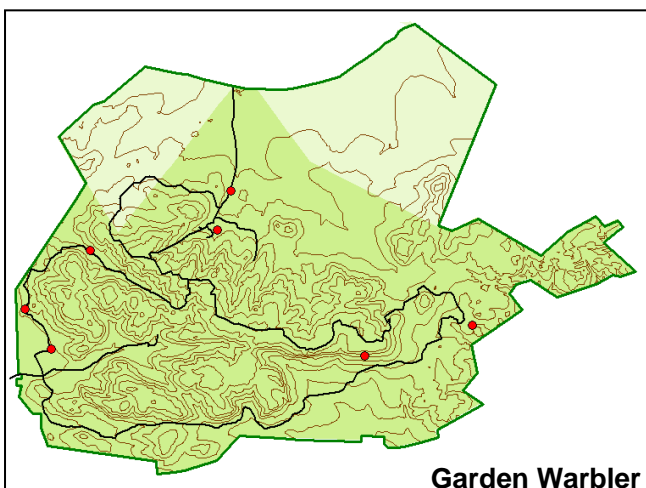
Vagrant. One was mist-netted by S. Wolff at Schoongezicht in January 1972 (Day 1975). Three sightings were reported during BIRP, but given the

Warbler, Garden
Sylvia borin

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

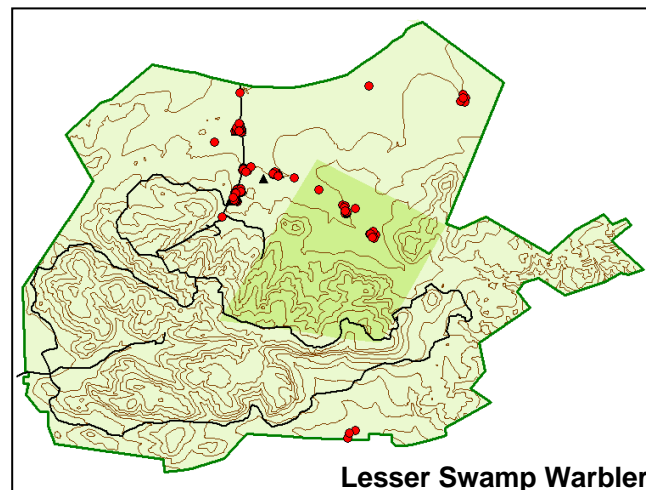
Palaearctic migrant. Widespread and in all habitats except summit montane grassland, typically close to drainage lines. Also recorded throughout the reserve by Day (1975). Secretive and likely to have been under-recorded. Three were ringed near Holhoek in January 1971 and another in March of the same year northeast of Elandsvlakte (SAFRING).

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
8	<1	10*



timing of migration, records for May and September are likely errors and have been excluded. The only recent record is for woodland in the vicinity of the Diepkloof visitor (administrative) centre on 8 March 2018. There were two additional records for a pentad that overlaps the reserve during SABAP2.

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
80	29	3*

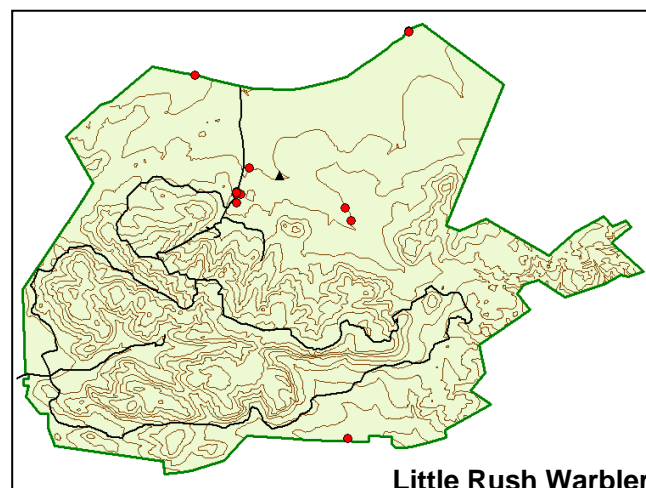


Warbler, Little Rush
Bradypterus baboecala

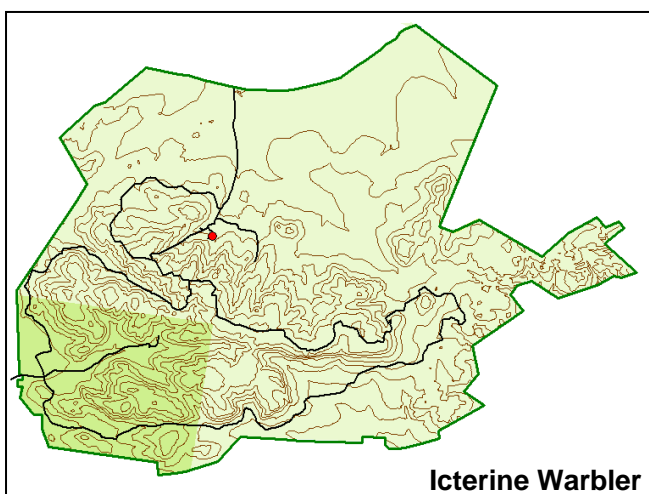
J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Possible resident. Restricted to streams and wetlands, mainly on the northern extension.

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
13	2	0



REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
1	<1	4*



Warbler, Lesser Swamp
Acrocephalus gracilirostris

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Breeding resident. Restricted to reed beds, most of which are on the northern extension. Usually detected on call. Occasionally seen foraging around the base of emergent vegetation. Day (1975) only includes a single record for Valsfontein in November 1970. An adult was recorded with young at a nest on 30 September 2022. One was ringed in the Elandsvlakte area (SAFRING).

Warbler, Marsh

Acrocephalus palustris

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Palaearctic migrant. Probably overlooked. Two were caught in mist nests on Boschhoek in December 1971, and another was seen at Evergreen Ranch in March 1972 (Day 1975). Our records were for woodland around Kiepersol camp and sweet thorn savannah in the west. Most identifications were based on call.

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
0	<1	0

Warbler, Willow

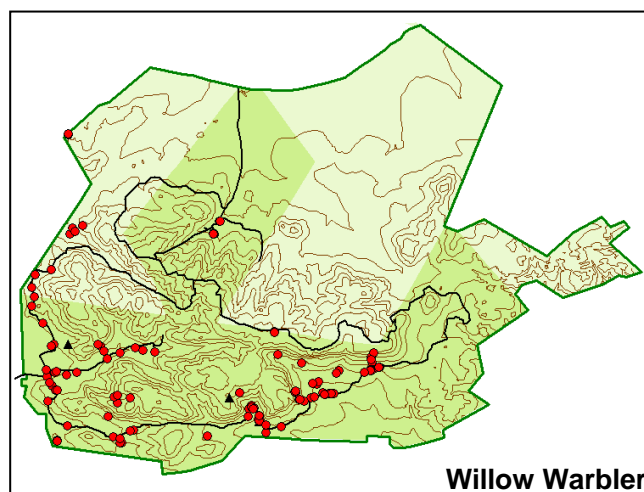
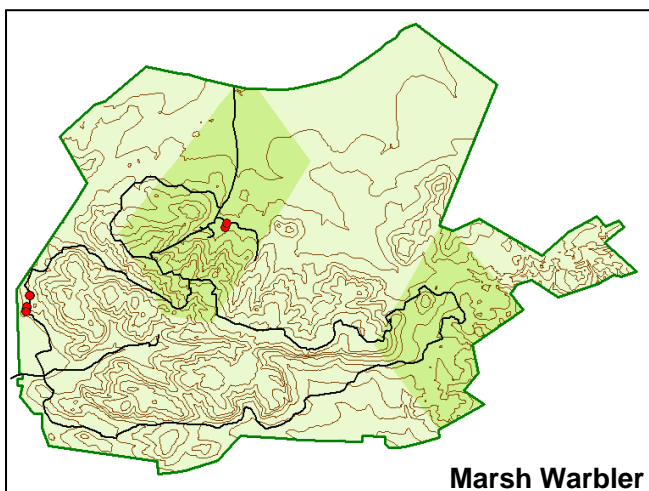
Phylloscopus trochilus

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Palaearctic migrant. Widespread in wooded habitats but mainly in kloof bush and sweet thorn savannah. Usually solitary but sometimes several together. Two were ringed (SAFRING).

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
7	<1	5*

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
30	23	26*



Warbler, Sedge

Acrocephalus schoenobaenus

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Vagrant. There was just one record during BIRP and only four for two pentads that overlap the reserve during SABAP2, most recently on 17 March 2022.

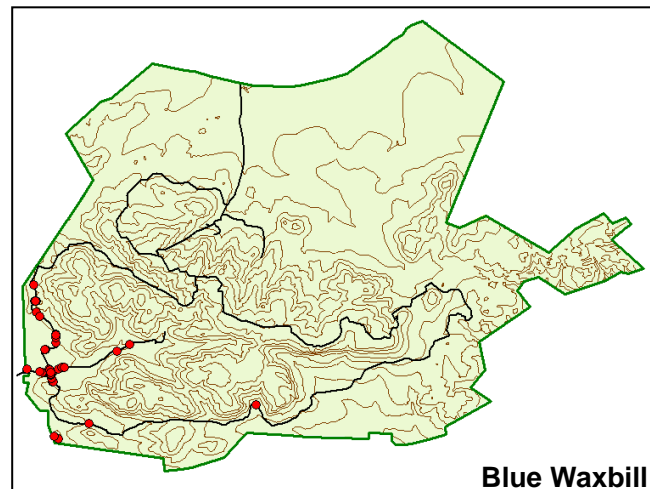
Waxbill, Black-faced

Brunhilda erythronotos

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Breeding resident. Mainly found in sweet thorn savannah. Solitary, in pairs and small groups (≤ 11). A pair was recorded on Schoongezicht in October 1971 and at the time there was speculation that these were escaped

cage birds (Day 1975). ID saw parents feeding young in a nest on 11 March 2021. Fourteen were ringed in the Kareekloof area and two, inexplicably, along the ridge between Blesbok and Steenbok huts (SAFRING).



Waxbill, Common

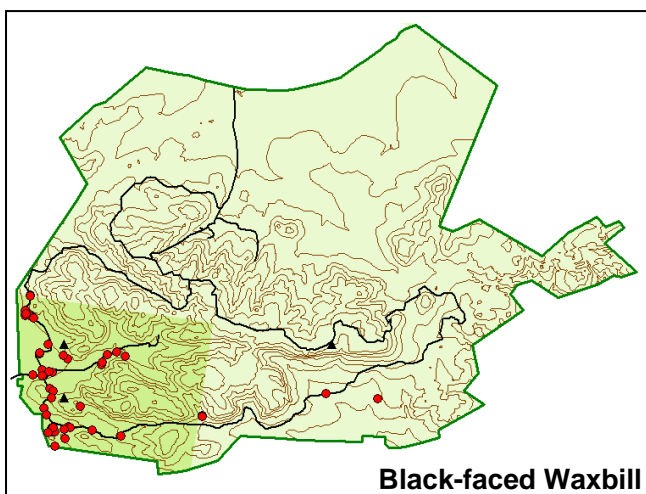
Estrilda astrild

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Breeding resident. Widespread and found in all habitats but usually in long grass and often, but not invariably, near water. No obvious preference for kloof bush reported by Day (1975). Solitary, in pairs, small groups and larger flocks (20-60). Juveniles were observed in March and April 2019 and adults were seen with young on 6 April 2022. Day (1975) also recorded breeding but provided no further details. One was ringed (SAFRING).

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
88	30	58*

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
29	14	2



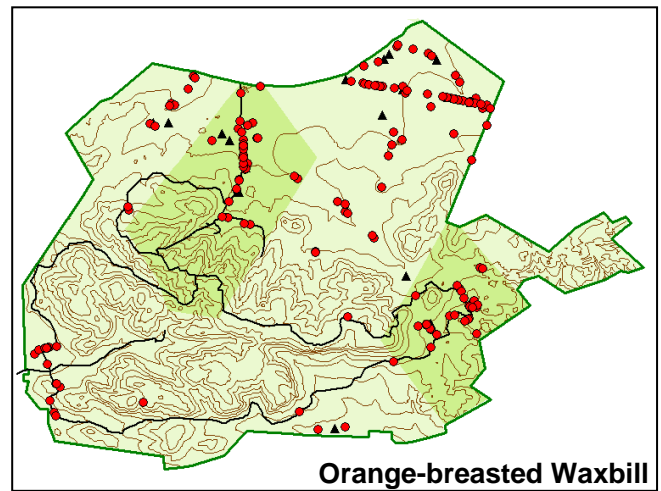
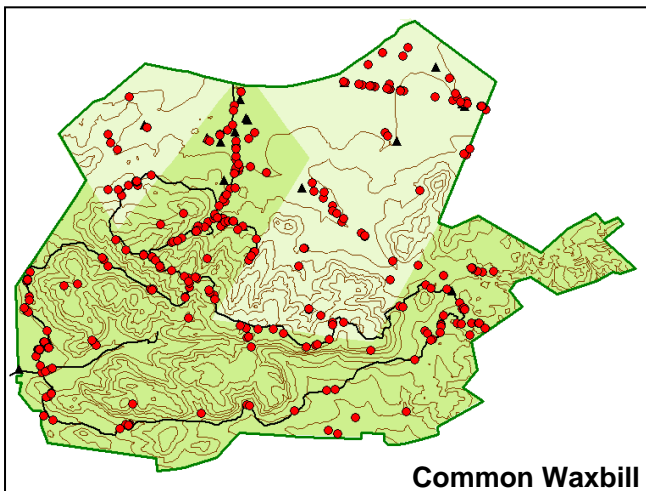
Waxbill, Blue

Uraeginthus angolensis

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Resident. Almost exclusively recorded in sweet thorn savannah with one record for kloof bush. Solitary, in pairs or small groups (≤ 10).

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
29	2	0



Waxbill, Orange-breasted
Amandava subflava

Waxbill, Violet-eared
Granatina granatinus

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

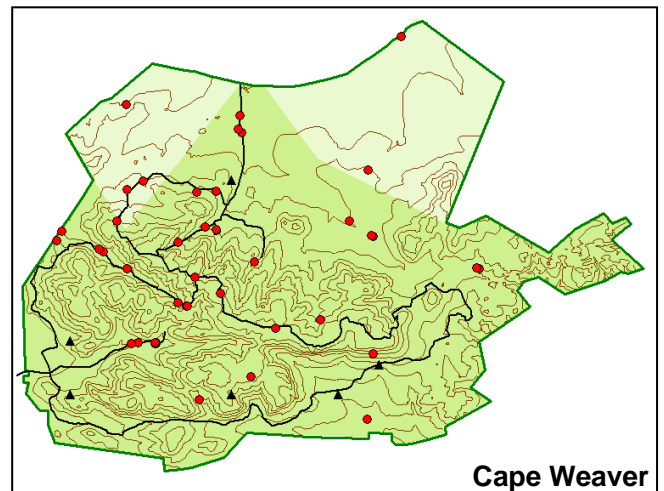
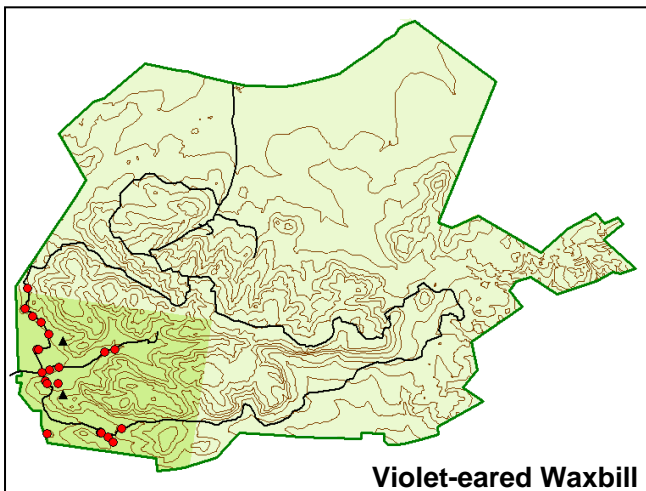
J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Breeding resident. Widespread. Found in all habitats except kloof bush and only once in summit montane grassland. Usually near water. Flock size is highly variable. The largest, estimated at 120, was seen on 21 May 2019 with a total of 181 for the day. Daily tallies exceeding 100 are not considered unusual. Adults were seen with young in April to July. Day (1975) also recorded quite large flocks and breeding in April.

Resident; has bred. Restricted to sweet thorn savannah. Solitary, in pairs and small groups (≤ 5). Day (1975) speculated that the pair recorded twice on Schoongezicht in 1971 were escaped cage birds. Given the broader bushveld bird community on the reserve, including species such as the Sabota Lark not typically kept by aviculturists, this explanation is unlikely to be correct. Breeding was reported in May during BIRP. Twenty-five were ringed in the Kareekloof during 2005-2006. Four were subsequently recaptured (3-5 months later) in the same vicinity (SAFRING).

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
63	20	28*

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
22	6	7*



Weaver, Cape

Ploceus capensis

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Breeding visitor. Recorded in all months but occurrence outside the breeding season is unpredictable. Widespread and found in all habitats but with few sightings in kloof bush which Day (1975) reported was favoured. Usually solitary, but also in small groups (≤ 6). Nest building was recorded during October to December. Day (1975) noted breeding during November to March. Thirty-five nests were counted in palm trees at the entrance to the derelict Kareekloof resort on 10 November 2022. Over 80 were ringed but none were recaptured despite multi-year trapping effort (SAFRING).

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
36	46	54*

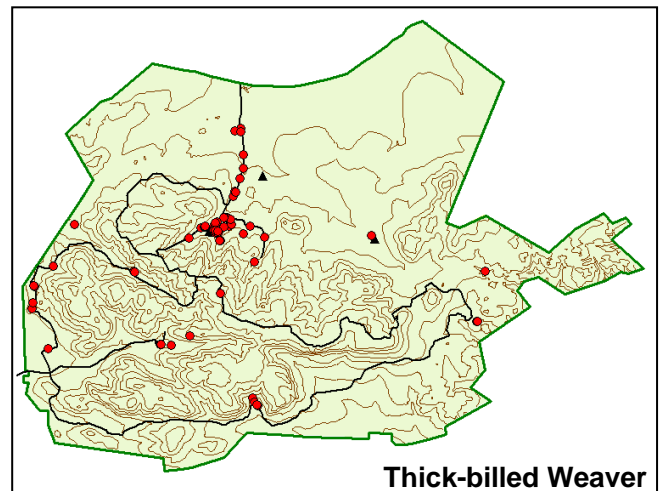
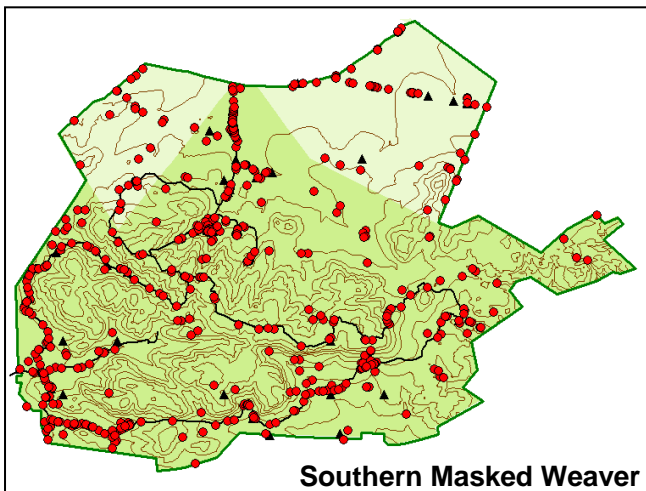
Weaver, Southern Masked

Ploceus velatus

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Breeding resident. Widespread and found in all habitats. Solitary and in small groups. Active nest building was observed between August and January, newly completed nest in February and juveniles in March. Day (1975) recorded breeding between November and March. Over 350 were ringed of which seven were subsequently recaptured (1-12 months later) in the same vicinity. Three that were ringed on 29 March 1998 in the Elandsvlakte area were recaptured at Schoongezicht, 10km away, on 22 May 1999 (SAFRING) suggesting some flock cohesion.

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
97	88	78*



Weaver, Thick-billed
Amblyospiza albifrons

Wheatear, Capped
Oenanthe pileata

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

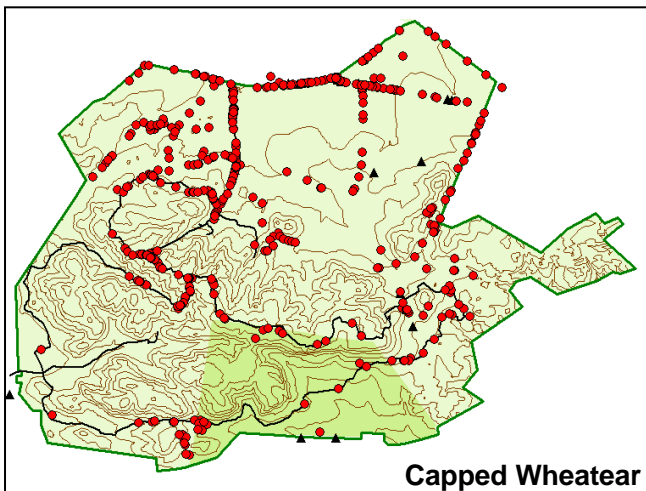
J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Visitor. Recorded in most months but their distinctive finely woven nests have yet to be discovered. Most records are for the Diepkloof area but widespread and found in all habitats with small streams. Noticeably absent from large wetlands on the northern extension. Usually solitary or in small flocks (≤ 7) but 90 were counted in four flocks near Evergreen Ranch on 19 March 2021.

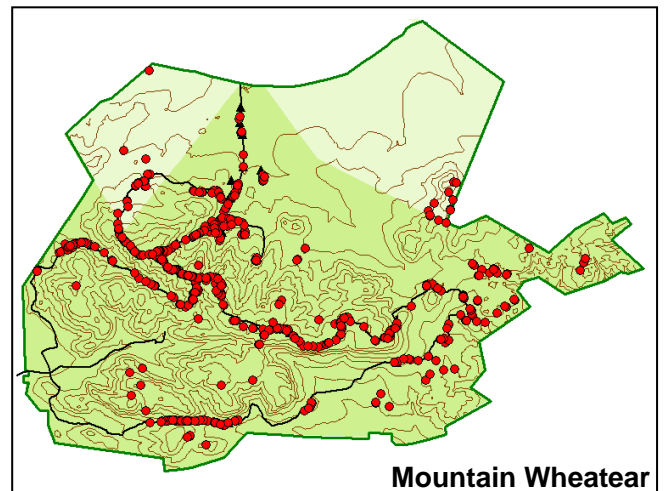
Breeding visitor. More than 80% of sightings were during July-November. Widespread in grassland. Solitary, in pairs or loose aggregations (≤ 10) in burnt grassland. Up to 30 recorded on a single visit but likely many more present. Previously uncommon, Day (1975) includes just one sighting of several in burnt grassland in the south of the reserve in August 1971. Breeding activity including courtship displays and carrying of nesting material were recorded in August to October, adults with young were seen in September to November and juveniles in November and December. Two were ringed at the Kareekloof gate on 30 June 2005 (SAFRING), an area which otherwise has few records for this species.

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
39	2	0

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
59	46	3*



Capped Wheatear



Mountain Wheatear

Wheatear, Mountain
Oenanthe monticola

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Breeding resident. Widespread but absent from kloof bush, a favoured habitat according to Day (1975), and only found on the periphery of sweet thorn savannah. Solitary, in pairs and small groups (≤ 4). Day (1975) reported more than 20 in a square mile (2.6km^2). Nineteen were counted along 30km of the tourist route on 17 May 2021. An adult repeatedly entering the eaves of Diepkloof visitor centre/administrative building with insect prey on 11 August 2022 was presumed to be feeding nestlings. Breeding was also reported for October during BIRP. Pied, grey and dark male morphs are all present. One was ringed (SAFRING).

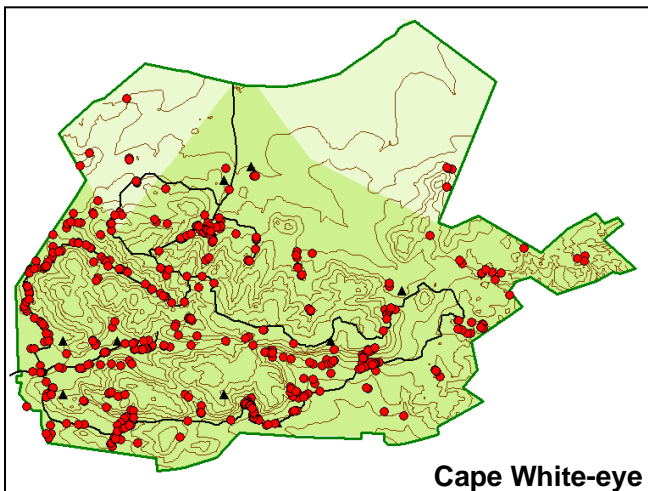
REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
92	95	62*

White-eye, Cape
Zosterops virens

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Breeding resident. Widespread in wooded habitats. Solitary or in groups (≤ 40). Flocks of up to 50 were reported by Day (1975). Seen carrying nesting material on 10 November 2022. Three individuals ringed at various localities were subsequently recaptured (1 day-1 year later) in the same vicinity but one moved approximately 1.5km over 13 months. Over 200 were not recaptured despite a multi-year trapping effort (SAFRING).

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
97	77	90*

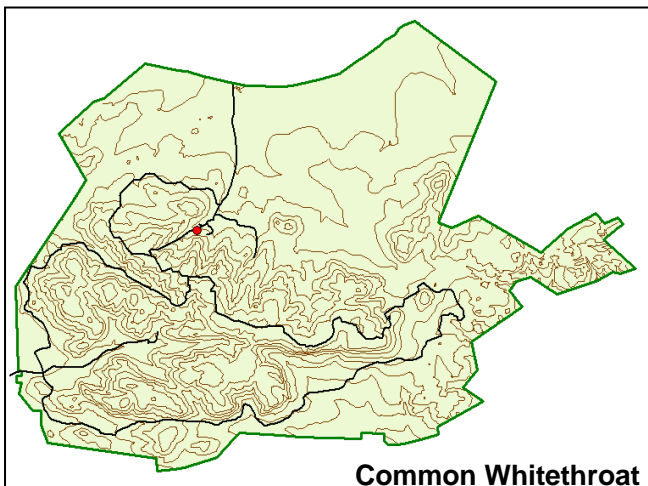


Whitethroat, Common
Corruca communis

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Vagrant. CWJ recorded a fleeting glimpse of one in low scrubby bush near turnoff to Ouhout camp on 30 November 2021. Not otherwise recorded for pentads that overlap the reserve during SABAP2.

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
1	0	0

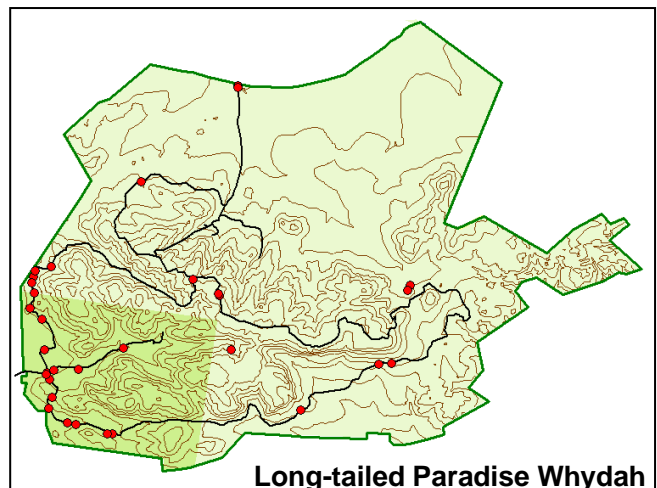


Whydah, Long-tailed Paradise
Vidua paradisaea

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Probable resident. Widespread and found in diverse habitats, but mainly in sweet thorn savannah. Males with their distinctive humped tails were usually found individually but one group comprising two males and a female was recorded on 14 December 2021. Day (1975) only recorded individuals at Schoongezicht between March and May. Its host, the Green-winged Pytila, is common in sweet thorn savannah. One was ringed (SAFRING).

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
24	21	6



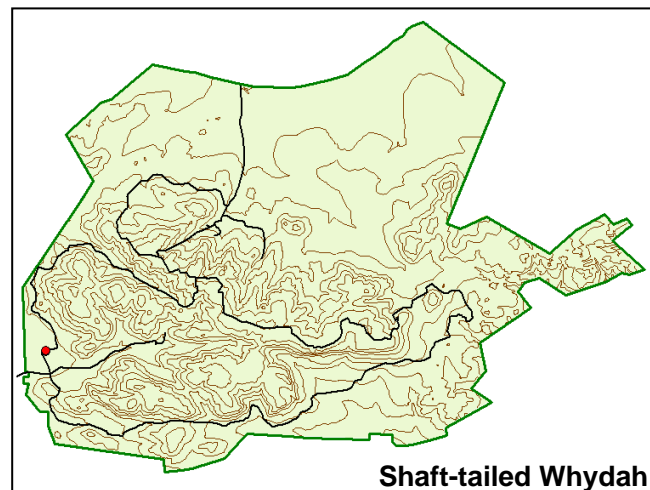
Whydah, Pin-tailed
Vidua macroura

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Resident; probably breeds. Widespread and found in all habitats often near water. Solitary, in pairs and small

groups. A flock of 45 recorded on 24 May 2021 was exceptional. Common and Orange-breasted Waxbills, primary and secondary hosts of this species, are abundant and widespread. Aerial displays by males were observed. Three were ringed (SAFRING).

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
3	<1	0



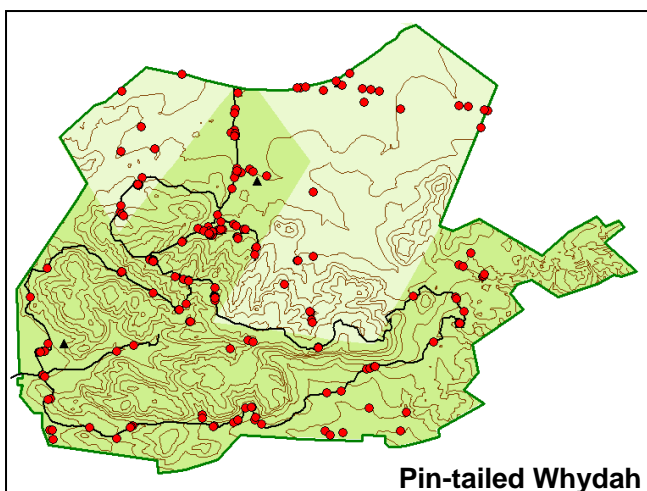
Widowbird, Fan-tailed
Euplectes axillaris

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Probable resident. Restricted to streams and wetlands in plains grassland and old lands. Individual displaying males were most obvious but one flock comprising a male and six presumed females was recorded in November 2022.

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
30	2	0

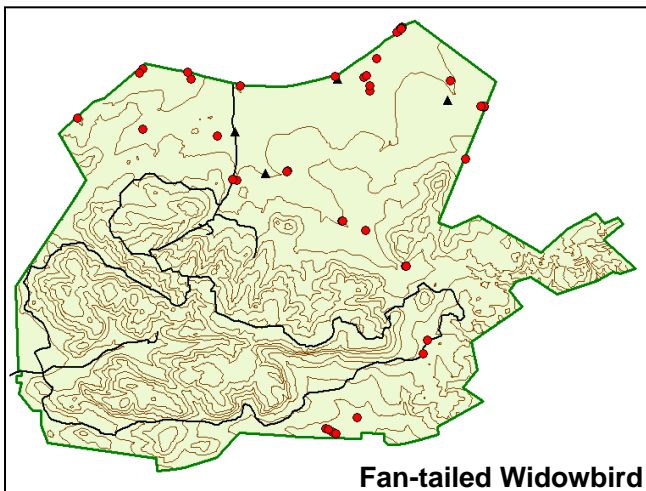
REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
58	50	62*



Whydah, Shaft-tailed
Vidua regia

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Vagrant. Restricted to sweet thorn savannah. Reported for September during BIRP and seen on 17 August 2004 by reserve staff. Two males (one with a long tail) were subsequently recorded along a dry drainage line together with various other seedeaters at Schoongezicht on 17 March 2022. A lone male was seen in the same area on 6 April 2022. Violet-eared Waxbill is a localised and uncommon host species.

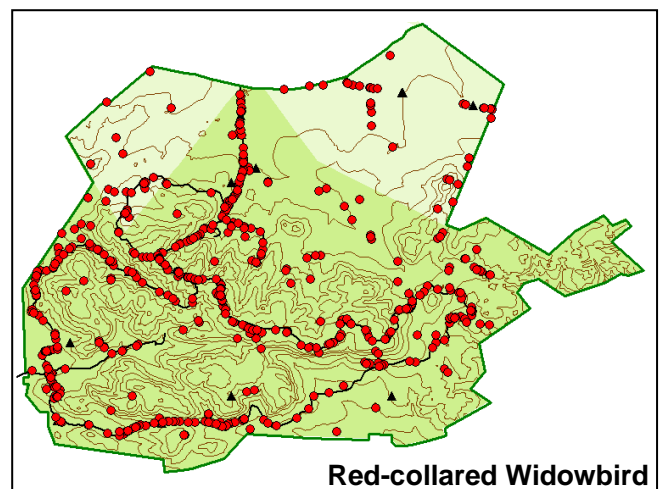


Widowbird, Red-collared
Euplectes ardens

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Breeding resident. Widespread and found in all habitats but restricted to watercourses in rocky shrubland. Solitary, in small groups and at times in large flocks (>100). An adult was seen feeding young on 17 March 2022. Breeding was also reported during October and January-March (Day 1975, BIRP). Twenty were ringed (SAFRING).

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
93	75	42*



Widowbird, White-winged
Euplectes albonotatus

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

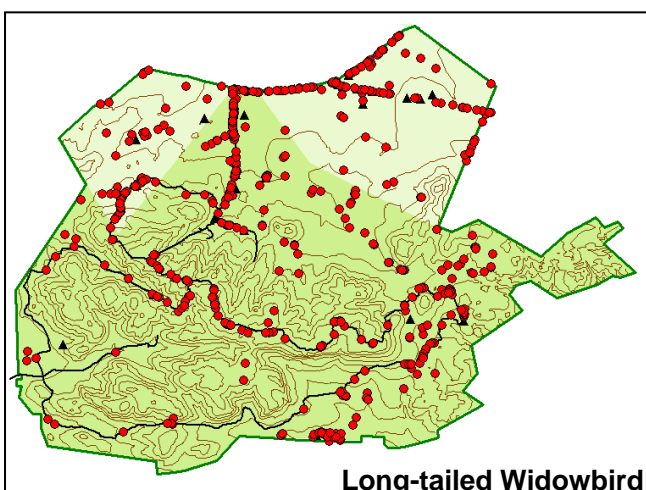
Resident; has bred. Widespread in grassland and sweet thorn savannah. Solitary and in small groups (≤5). Displaying males conspicuous in breeding plumage but females and non-breeding males likely overlooked

Widowbird, Long-tailed
Euplectes progne

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

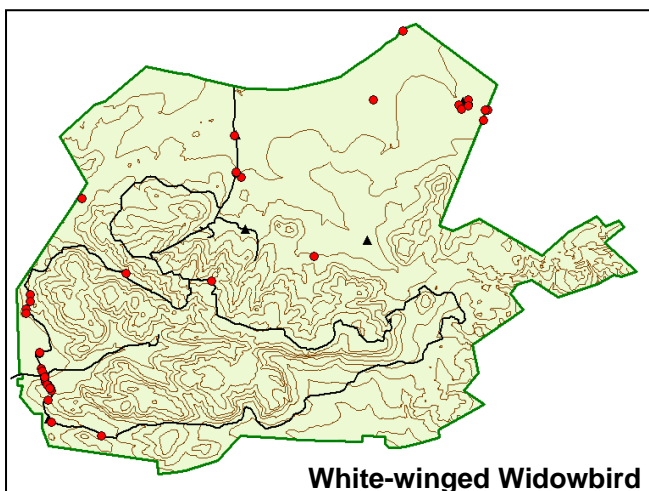
Breeding resident. Widespread and found in all habitats except kloof bush. Solitary and in small groups but also in larger flocks of 30-50. A courtship display was observed on 10 November 2022. Breeding was also recorded in October and January-March (Day 1975, BIRP 2012). Twenty were ringed (SAFRING).

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
100	92	76*



especially when in mixed species flocks. Breeding reported for January (BIRP).

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
30	18	0

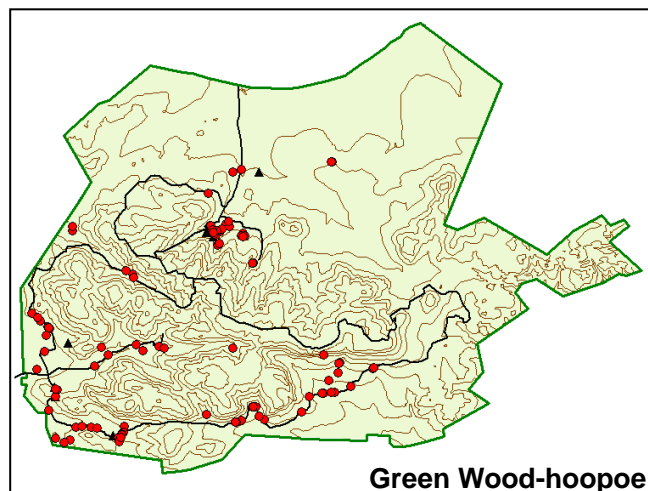


Wood-hoopoe, Green
Phoeniculus purpureus

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Resident. Widespread in wooded habitats. Solitary and in groups (3-5). Recaptures of ringed birds suggest sedentary and possibly territorial. Three of 11 ringed in the Kareekloof area were subsequently recaptured (2 months to more than 7 years later) in the same vicinity, one four times in just over a year (SAFRING).

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
58	8	0

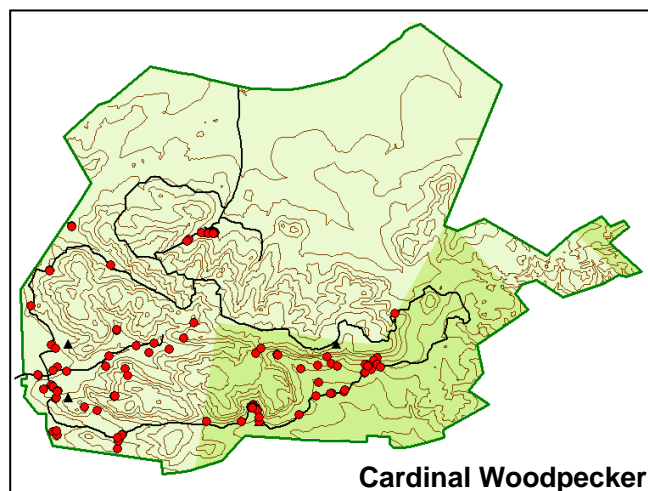


Woodpecker, Cardinal
Dendropicos fuscescens

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Resident. Found in wooded habitats throughout the reserve. Usually solitary but up to three together. Movement apparently limited. Of the 12 ringed, three were recaptured (2 months to 3 years later) either at the original capture site or within 2km (SAFRING).

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
57	16	23*

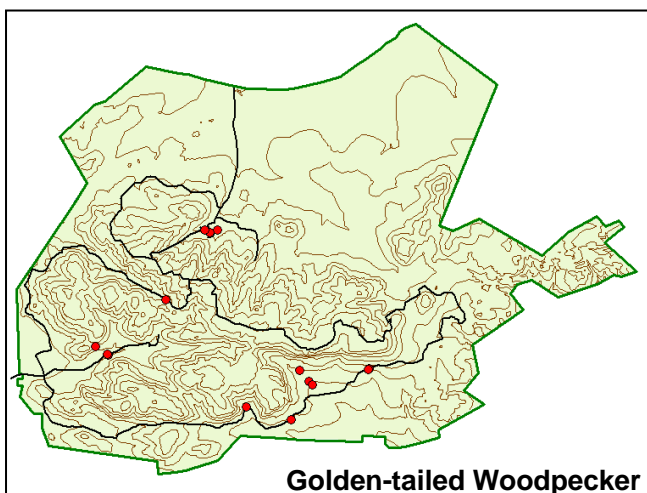


Woodpecker, Golden-tailed
Campethera abingoni

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Visitor. Mainly found in kloof bush in the south and around Diepkloof. Usually detected on call.

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
14	1	0



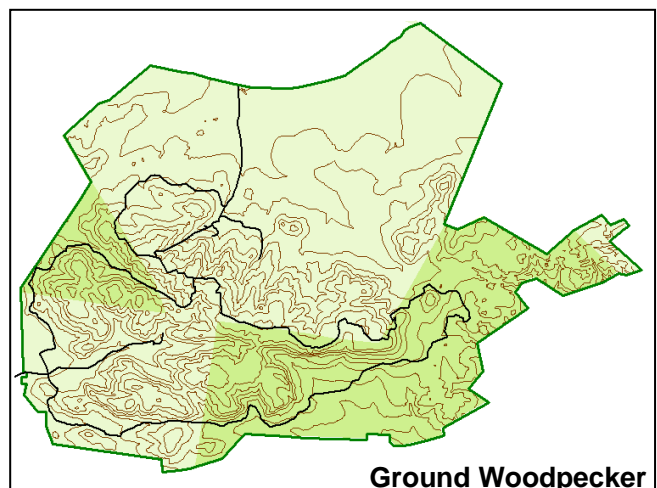
Woodpecker, Ground
Geocolaptes olivaceus LC, NT

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Possibly locally extinct. Day (1975) recorded scattered sightings of individuals, breeding in August and a sighting of juveniles in December. It was still considered to be a fairly common breeding resident in the 1980s (Anon 1986). D. Koen subsequently found the species at Blesboklaagte several times, but not in recent years. Four sightings (March, July, and August) were reported during BIRP. One of these may have been by R.

Fieldwick and P. Tattersall who observed a pair about 1km east of the Holhoek Picnic Site on 20 July 2003 (Pretoria BirdNet). Three further sightings were reported during SABAP2; the first by C. Summersgill on 27 June 2010 in the southeast of the reserve and the other two by D. Oosthuizen on 25 May 2018 and 14 December 2018 for which no further details could be obtained.

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
0	2	20*



Woodpecker, Olive
Dendropicos griseocephalus

Vagrant. An individual was photographed by N. Horn in the woodland at Kareekloof resort between 2008 and 2012.

Species requiring confirmation

Bush-shrike, Grey-headed *Malaconotus blanchoti*

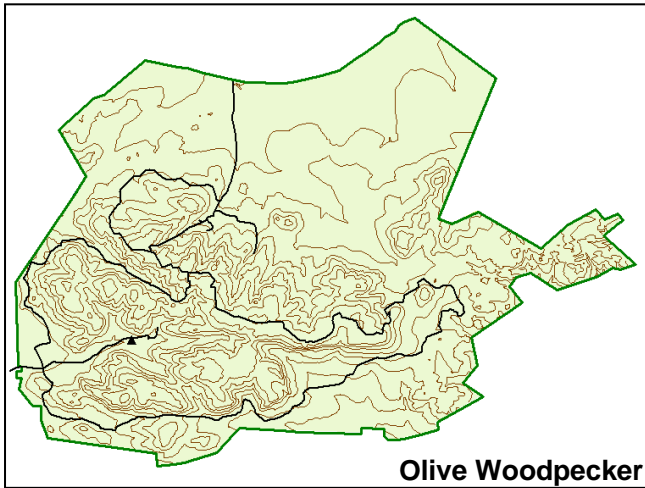
Not recorded by Day (1975), during BIRP (Harebottle *et al.* 2004) nor by us. There were two records for two pentads that overlap the reserve during SABAP2, most recently on 15 August 2018.

Camaroptera, Grey-backed *Camaroptera brevicaudata*

Not recorded by Day (1975), during BIRP (Harebottle *et al.* 2004) nor by us. There were four records for two pentads that overlap the reserve during SABAP2, most recently on 1 October 2016.

Canary, Brimstone *Crithagra sulphurata*

Day (1975) reported scattered sightings throughout the reserve, and it was considered a scarce but possibly resident species in the 1980s (Anon 1986). These records might have been more easily dismissed as erroneous sightings of Yellow Canaries were it not for two specimens that were apparently ringed in the Schoongezicht area on 19 February 2000 and 17 March 2001 (SAFRING). We did not record this species and there were only three records for two pentads on the periphery of the province during SABAP2.

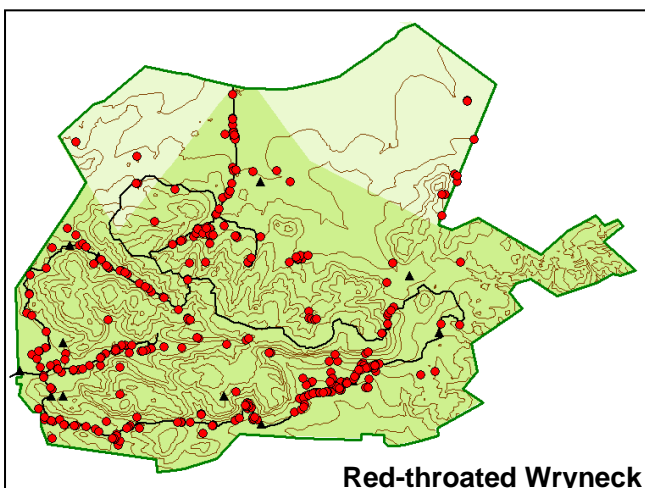


Wryneck, Red-throated *Jynx ruficollis*

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D

Resident; has bred. Widespread but with few records for summit montane grassland and rocky shrubland. Solitary, occasionally in pairs, once three together. Breeding recorded in February by Day (1975). Seven were ringed at various locations, one was subsequently recaptured (7 months later) in the same vicinity (SAFRING).

REPORTING RATES		
2018-2023	1995-2003	1970-1972
95	61	64*



Cisticola, Pale-crowned

Cisticola cinnamomeus

Not recorded by Day (1975), during BIRP (Harebottle *et al.* 2004) nor by us. There were nine records for a single pentad that overlaps the reserve during SABAP2, most recently on 10 February 2019.

Courser, Temminck's

Cursorius temminckii

Not recorded by Day (1975), during BIRP (Harebottle *et al.* 2004) nor by us. There were three records for three pentads that overlap the reserve during SABAP2, most recently on 27 May 2018.

Drongo, Fork-tailed

Dicrurus adsimilis

Not recorded by Day (1975), during BIRP (Harebottle *et al.* 2004) nor by us. There were seven records for two pentads that overlap the reserve during SABAP2, most recently on 9 July 2023.

Eagle, Long-crested

Lophaetus occipitalis

Not recorded by Day (1975), during BIRP (Harebottle *et al.* 2004) nor by us. There were three records for three pentads that overlap the reserve during SABAP2, most recently on 8 November 2019.

Flamingo, Lesser

Phoeniconaias minor

Not recorded by Day (1975), during BIRP (Harebottle *et al.* 2004) nor by us.

There were three records for two pentads that overlap the reserve during SABAP2, most recently on 10 December 2019.

Grebe, Black-necked

Podiceps nigricollis

Not recorded by Day (1975), during BIRP (Harebottle *et al.* 2004) nor by us. There were four records for two pentads that overlap the reserve during SABAP2, most recently on 5 October 2018.

Greenbul, Sombre

Andropadus importunus

A specimen was reportedly ringed north-east of Elandsvlakte on 5 July 1998 (SAFRING). This species was not recorded by Day (1975), during BIRP, by us nor during SABAP2 and may be a data capture error.

Heron, Black

Egretta ardesiaca

Not recorded by Day (1975), during BIRP (Harebottle *et al.* 2004) nor by us. There were four records for two pentads that overlap the reserve during SABAP2, most recently on 20 November 2022.

Jacana, African

Actophilornis africanus

Not recorded by Day (1975), during BIRP (Harebottle *et al.* 2004) nor by us. There were three records for a single pentad that overlaps the reserve during SABAP2, most recently on 14 March 2023.

Lark, Flappet***Mirafra rufocinnamomea***

This species was not recorded by Day (1975). The single record for December during BIRP was subsequently removed from the project database (BIRP 2012). A lark observed by CWJ in high circular flight with fluttering wings over sweet thornveld in the Kareekloof area on 20 February 2020 may have been this species but was not seen well enough to confirm. There were no records for any pentads that overlap the reserve during SABAP2.

Pelican, Great White***Pelecanus onocrotalus* VU, LC**

Not recorded by Day (1975), during BIRP (Harebottle *et al.* 2004) nor by us. There was a single record for a single pentad that overlaps the reserve during SABAP2, most recently on 29 January 2017.

Pigeon, African Green***Treron calvus***

Not recorded by Day (1975), during BIRP (Harebottle *et al.* 2004) nor by us. There was a single record for a single pentad that overlaps the reserve during SABAP2, most recently on 24 May 2021.

Plover, Kittlitz's***Charadrius pecuarius***

Not recorded by Day (1975), during BIRP (Harebottle *et al.* 2004) nor by us. There were two records for a single pentad that overlaps the reserve during

SABAP2, most recently on 18 August 2019.

Quail, Harlequin***Coturnix delegorguei***

Not recorded by Day (1975), during BIRP (Harebottle *et al.* 2004) nor by us. There was a single record for a single pentad that overlaps the reserve during SABAP2, most recently on 10 February 2019.

Roller, Purple***Coracias naevius***

Not recorded by Day (1975), during BIRP (Harebottle *et al.* 2004) nor by us. There were two records for a single pentad that overlaps the reserve during SABAP2, most recently on 15 August 2015.

Tchagra, Black-crowned***Tchagra senegalus***

Not recorded by Day (1975). There were six records during BIRP (Harebottle *et al.* 2004) but these were subsequently removed from the project database (BIRP 2012). Hearing a Cape Rock Thrush mimic the distinctive call of this species in the Kareekloof on 10 May 2021 raised doubts about our two records (November 2018 and 2019), both based on call. There were 33 records for five pentads that overlap the reserve during SABAP2, most recently on 1 December 2022. Future surveys should focus on obtaining visual confirmation of this species occurrence within the reserve.

Vulture, White-backed
***Gyps africanus* CR, CR**

Not recorded by Day (1975), during BIRP (Harebottle *et al.* 2004) nor by us. There was one record for a single pentad that overlaps the reserve during SABAP2, most recently on 14 April 2022.

Wagtail, African Pied
***Motacilla aguimp* CR, CR**

Not recorded by Day (1975), during BIRP (Harebottle *et al.* 2004) nor by us. There were two records for a single pentad that overlaps the reserve during SABAP2, most recently on 16 October 2015.

Weaver, Village
Ploceus cucullatus

There is potential for confusion with Southern Masked Weavers. This species was not recorded by us or Day (1975). Two of the three records for BIRP (Harebottle *et al.* 2004) were likely of birds in eclipse plumage and all three records were subsequently removed from the project database (BIRP 2012). It is more difficult to account for the 21 individuals that were ringed at Evergreen Ranch, Kareekloof and near Elandsvlakte between 1998 and 2003. However, all the reported males were captured in June by which time they are expected to have moulted out of their distinctive breeding plumage. There are seven records for two pentads that overlap the reserve during SABAP2, the most recent on 10 June 2023.

Erroneous records

Ostrich, Common
Struthio camelus

This species does not occur within the reserve. The single record for BIRP (Harebottle *et al.* 2004) is presumed to be for an individual or flock on a neighbouring property.

Spurfowl, Natal
Pternistes natalensis

Not recorded by Day (1975). There was only one record during BIRP (Harebottle *et al.* 2004) and this was subsequently removed from the project database (BIRP 2012). We did not record this species and there were no records for any pentads that overlap the reserve during SABAP2.

Bush-shrike, Orange-breasted
Chlorophoneus sulfureopectus

Not recorded by Day (1975). The two records for August and October during BIRP (Harebottle *et al.* 2004) were subsequently removed from the project database (BIRP 2012). We heard one unconvincing call on 22 October 2019 in the vicinity of Kareekloof. There were no records for any of the pentads that overlap the reserve during SABAP2.

Chat, Buff-streaked
Campicoloides bifasciatus

Not recorded by Day (1975). The four records for July-September during BIRP (Harebottle *et al.* 2004) were subsequently removed from the project database (BIRP 2012). We did not

record this species and there were no records for any pentads that overlap the reserve during SABAP2.

Courser, Bronze-winged

Rhinoptilus chalcopterus

Not recorded by Day (1975). The single record for February during BIRP (Harebottle *et al.* 2004) was subsequently removed from the project database (BIRP 2012). We did not record this species and there were no records for any pentads that overlap the reserve during SABAP2.

Crow, Cape

Corvus capensis

Not recorded by Day (1975). The four records for September and March during BIRP (Harebottle *et al.* 2004) was subsequently removed from the project database (BIRP 2012). We did not record this species but there is one record for a pentad that overlaps the reserve on 10 June 2008 during SABAP2.

Finch, Cut-throat

Amadina fasciatus

Not recorded by Day (1975). There was a single sighting by reserve staff on 18 January 2006. No further details are available. We did not record this species and there were no records for any pentad that overlaps the reserve during SABAP2.

Fracolin, Coqui

Campocolinus coqui

Day (1975) recorded an individual adjacent to the reserve at Heidelberg Kloof in 1970. The single record for February during BIRP (Harebottle *et al.* 2004) was subsequently removed from the project database (BIRP 2012). We did not record this species and there were no records for any pentads that overlap the reserve during SABAP2.

Harrier, Western Marsh

Circus aeruginosus

Not recorded by Day (1975) or during BIRP (Harebottle *et al.* 2004). An individual was seen foraging over the drainage line east of the Diepkloof gate on 3 February 2006 by CWJ. The record was not accepted by SABAP2. There were no other records of this species for any pentads that overlap the reserve during SABAP2.

Hawk, African Cuckoo

Aviceda cuculoides

Not recorded by Day (1975) or during BIRP (Harebottle *et al.* 2004). There was a single sighting by reserve staff on 12 July 2007. No further details are available. We did not record this species and there were no records for any pentad that overlaps the reserve during SABAP2.

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Summit montane grasslands in spring after fires



Leucistic Kalahari Scrub Robin



Juvenile Cuckoo Finches