

Birdlife

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Each year a bird of the year is chosen by Birdlife South Africa; the African Fish Eagle being the designated bird for 2012. National Bird Week oversees the official launch of the learning materials and resources associated with the Bird of the year. Resources for the Bird of the Year 2012 are currently being developed and will be made available on www.birdlife.org.za.

The KlipSA area has an abundance of bird species. Over the past 5 years, some 17 registered 'citizen scientists' from the South African Bird Atlas Project 2 (SABAP2) have recorded the birds species currently found in this area. They have submitted 150 cards wherein the bird species are listed; each card represents a minimum time period of two hours of intensive bird observation. To date 228 different bird species have been recorded.

Each species has a reporting rate, which is the percentage reported of the 150 cards and is indicated in brackets after each bird.

KlipSA endorses Birdlife South Africa's National Bird Week - 6 to 11 May -

The most reported birds in our area are: Common Myna (Introduced species)(98), Laughing Dove (96,6), Southern Masked Weaver (96), Cape Sparrow (96), Dark Capped Bulbul (95,3), Red-eyed Dove (94,6), Hadedda Ibis (94,6), Black-Collared Barbet (94), Cape Turtle Dove (93,3), Cape Robin-Chat (92,6), Crested Barbet (91,3) and Common Fiscal (91,3).

We are very fortunate to have some beautiful and somewhat unusual birds in our area and some of them are only to be found in the Klipriviersberg Nature Reserve. To name but a few: Giant Kingfisher (16,8), Steppe Buzzard (20,8), Red-chested Cuckoo (Piet-my-vrou) (28,2), African Paradise Flycatcher (34,9), Amethyst

Sunbird (34,9), Chestnut-vented Tit-Babbler (34,9), African Olive Pigeon (46,3), White-Fronted Bee-eater (56,4), Swainson's Spurfowl (67,8), Verreaux's Eagle (12,1), Spotted Eagle Owl (9,4), Purple Indigobird (8,1), Lessor Honeyguide (14,8), Fairy Flycatcher (13,4) and Bokmakierie (81,9).

We have had some occasional or vagrant birds that have been reported in our area that all have less than a 1% reporting rate such as: Snake-Eagle, Common Cuckoo, Cuckoo Finch, Goliath Heron, Lilac-breasted

Roller, Long-crested Eagle, Secretarybird, Woodland Kingfisher, African Scops Owl, Pied Kingfisher, White-Bellied Korhaan and White-backed Mousebird.

On the 3rd Saturday of every month a free bird focused walk is conducted through the Klipriviersberg Nature Reserve. This walk is held under the auspices of the Klipriviersberg Nature Reserve Association (KNRA). The Klipriviersberg Bird Club has recently been formed with the aim to enjoy "birding" and to increase awareness and knowledge about birds in-and-around our area.

Presently, membership is free and open to all who may be interested. If you would like to receive the newsletter, please email wharris@mweb.co.za. For any other queries please contact Kevin Lavery at lavery@tiscali.co.za.



Red Headed Finch.



White-backed Mouse Bird.



Verreaux's Eagle.