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Ornithological Observations accepts papers containing faunistic information about birds. This includes descriptions of distribution, behaviour, breeding, foraging, food, movement, measurements, habitat and plumage. It will also consider for publication a variety of other interesting or relevant ornithological material: reports of projects and conferences, annotated checklists for a site or region, specialist bibliographies, and any other interesting or relevant material.

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BIRDS OF THE CAPE OF GOOD HOPE NATURE RESERVE, SOUTH-WESTERN CAPE, SOUTH AFRICA

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BIRDS OF THE CAPE OF GOOD HOPE NATURE RESERVE, SOUTH-WESTERN CAPE, SOUTH AFRICA

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Summary

This report describes the birds of the Cape of Good Hope Nature Reserve (now the southern section of the Table Mountain National Park), South Africa. A total of 279 species has been recorded, at least 80 of which have bred. An impressive range of national and regional rarities has occurred, including first and second records for Africa and South Africa, and as many as 20 species new to the south-western Cape.

The Reserve as a whole supports relatively low numbers and species-richness of bushbirds because of the generally sparse, exposed, and nutrient-deficient nature of the dominant fynbos vegetation. Small areas of coastal thicket support densities of birds up to 50 times greater than some inland fynbos habitats. Large numbers of nectar-feeding birds gather seasonally at flowering ornithophilous plants, especially proteaceous and ericaceous shrubs.

Freshwater birds are scarce in the few blackwater vleis, streams and seeps. Palaearctic migrant waders formerly were a feature of the coast in summer and on passage but are now rare. Sanctuary areas on beaches closed to the public are of increasing importance to breeding White-fronted Plover and African Black Oystercatcher and to roosting shorebirds and terns. The tip of the Reserve provides some of the best land-based seawatching in the world, with a high diversity and abundance of pelagic seabirds coming close to shore under suitable conditions.

The majority of observations detailed here were made in 1984-96; more recent records have been added where possible. As well updating previous lists, this account provides an historical snapshot and a baseline that will allow new assessments of the Reserve's birds to be made in a local and regional context. It also enables visiting birders to evaluate their sightings, as many species that are common within a few kilometres of the Reserve have not yet been recorded in it. The apparent absence of such species is a consequence of local conditions and/or birders not appreciating their local significance.

Location and history

The Cape of Good Hope Nature Reserve, also sometimes known more economically but inaccurately as Cape Point Nature Reserve, occupies the southern tip of the Cape Peninsula, South Africa (Fig 1). Its northern boundary lies 40 km south of Cape Town. At S34°21.417' E18°28.433', the rocky bluff of the Cape of Good Hope, in its strictest geographical sense, represents the south-western extremity of not just the Reserve but the African continent. (Africa's most southerly point is Cape Agulhas, 150 km to the east of the Cape of Good Hope at S34°49.973' E20°00.004').

Established in 1939 and managed for many years by the Cape Divisional Council (Fraser and McMahon 1994), in May 1998 the Reserve was incorporated into the Table Mountain National Park, run by South African National Parks (SANParks). It nevertheless retains

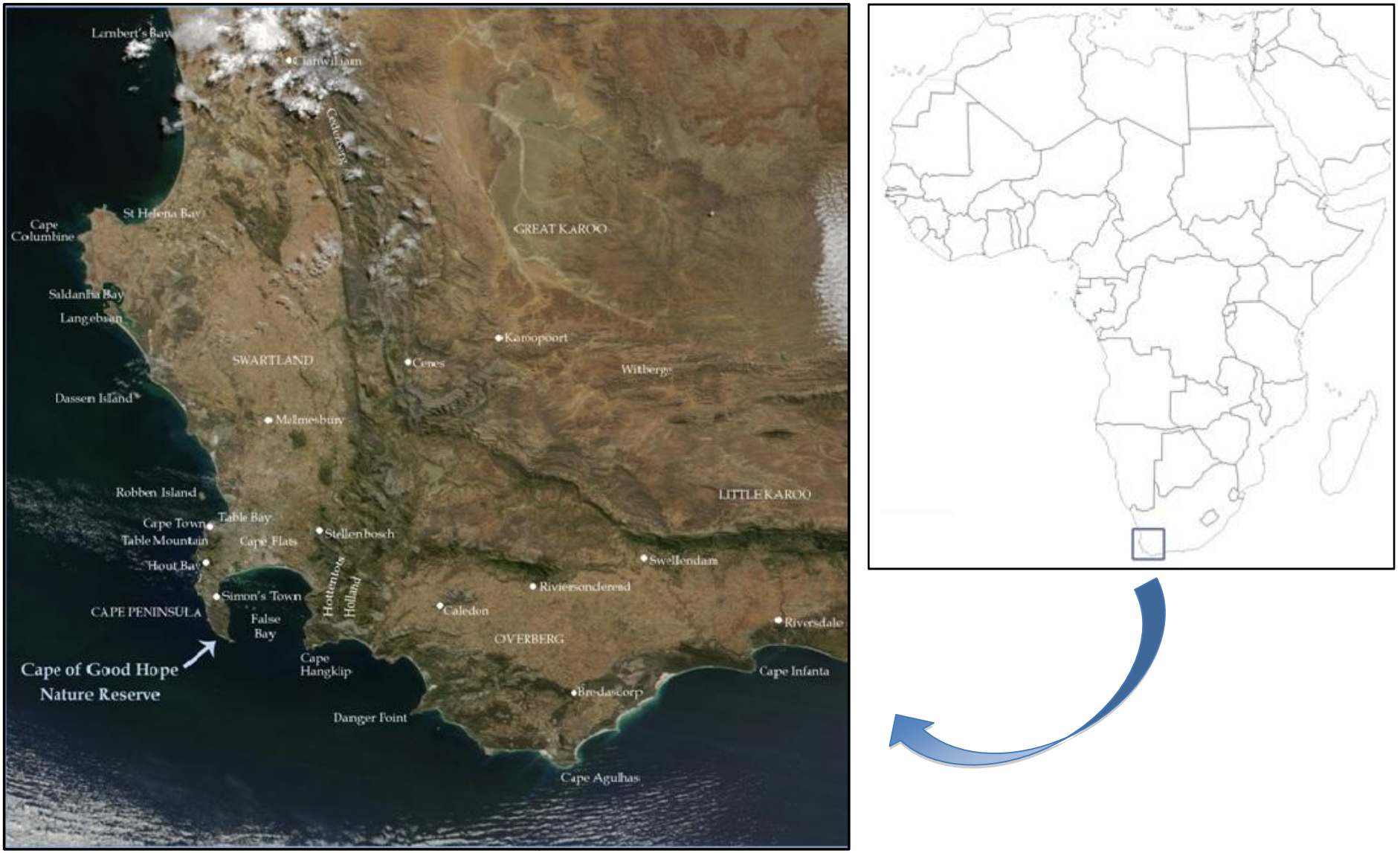

Fig 1a, b - The Cape of Good Hope Nature Reserve (a, left) lies at tip of the Cape Peninsula, the south-westernmost point of the African continent (b, above). Satellite image courtesy of NASA, nasaimages.org.

a level of geographical and ecological independence from the rest of the Park and is securely separated from the Peninsula to the north by a game-proof fence. Historically, the Reserve was stocked with a variety of large mammals, some which were not native to the area, for public spectacle. At present, the only re-introduced mammals are Bontebok *Damaliscus dorcas dorcas*, Eland *Taurotragus oryx*, Red Hartebeest *Alcelaphus buselaphus caama*, Cape Mountain Zebra *Equus zebra* and Klipspringer *Oreotragus oreotragus*.

Landscape

The Cape of Good Hope Nature Reserve is 7 750 ha in area, roughly triangular in shape, and bounded on two sides by the sea (Fig 2). From Schuster's Bay in the north to the Cape of Good Hope in the southwest is 23.5 km. The northern boundary (13.5 km) is marked by the Smitswinkel fault and the mountain range linking Rooihoogte (275 m) in the east and Bonteberg (227 m) in the west. Some 100 ha of valley bottom and lower mountain slope just north of the staff accommodation and administrative offices at Klaasjagersberg are also part of the Reserve. The east (False Bay) coast is dominated in the north by a chain of four mountains, of which Paulsberg (366 m) is the highest point of the Reserve, and seacliffs from Rooikrans (alternatively, Rooikranz or Rooikrantz) to Cape Point in the south. The north-west coast is more gentle, with a narrow coastal plain beneath a low escarpment running from Menskop to Hoek van Bobbejaan. Thereafter, the land rises as the Peninsula narrows to its tip at the cliffs (rising to 200 m) of the Cape Point/Cape Maclear/Cape of Good Hope massif. The Smitswinkel Flats, an extensive, poorly-drained plateau with occasional rocky outcrops, dominate the central area of the Reserve.

The Reserve's coastline is 40 km long. In the northwest a rocky, often boulder-strewn shore gives way to the ephemeral lagoon and back-beach pans at Die Mond (This is an important sanctuary area, instigated by Howard Langley in the early 1970s and closed to the public to protect breeding and roosting shorebirds). Deposition of sediments here by the Krom River has also created a deep, alluvial plain. A long, almost unbroken vegetated dune that ran from here to The Fishery was washed away by a storm in May 1984. A punctuated succession of broad beach, new dunes and coastal erosion now characterises this dynamic stretch. The long, sandy beach is interrupted by rocky outcrops at The Fishery and Menskoppunt and terminated by the outcropping of shelving sandstone platforms from Olifantsbos to just north of Olifantsbos Point.

Apart from the striking dune plume at Platboom, the pattern of sandy bays and rocky outcrops, and wave-cut platforms with occasional boulder beaches, continues down the west coast until the cliffs of the Cape of Good Hope and Cape Maclear. Between here and the towering cliffs of Cape Point (whose peak is 249 m above sea level) lies Dias Beach, a sandy cove about 500 m long.

On the west of Cape Point and north to Rooikrans the cliffs fall precipitously into the sea, which is very deep at their base. There are some quite sizeable, but generally inaccessible, sea caves at the base of Cape Point running along faults in the granite. Apart from the beach at Buffels Bay, where driftsands have deposited on the sandstone, the east coast is entirely rocky. The shore comprises boulder beaches and rock platforms until Black Rocks. Here the sandstone forms very low cliffs at the edge of the sea, creating a narrow, steep intertidal zone with deep gullies and rockpools. North of Venus Pool the coast becomes even more precipitous. The eastern slopes of the mountains between here and Smitswinkel Bay have been oversteepened by waves to the extent that they drop all but vertically into the sea.

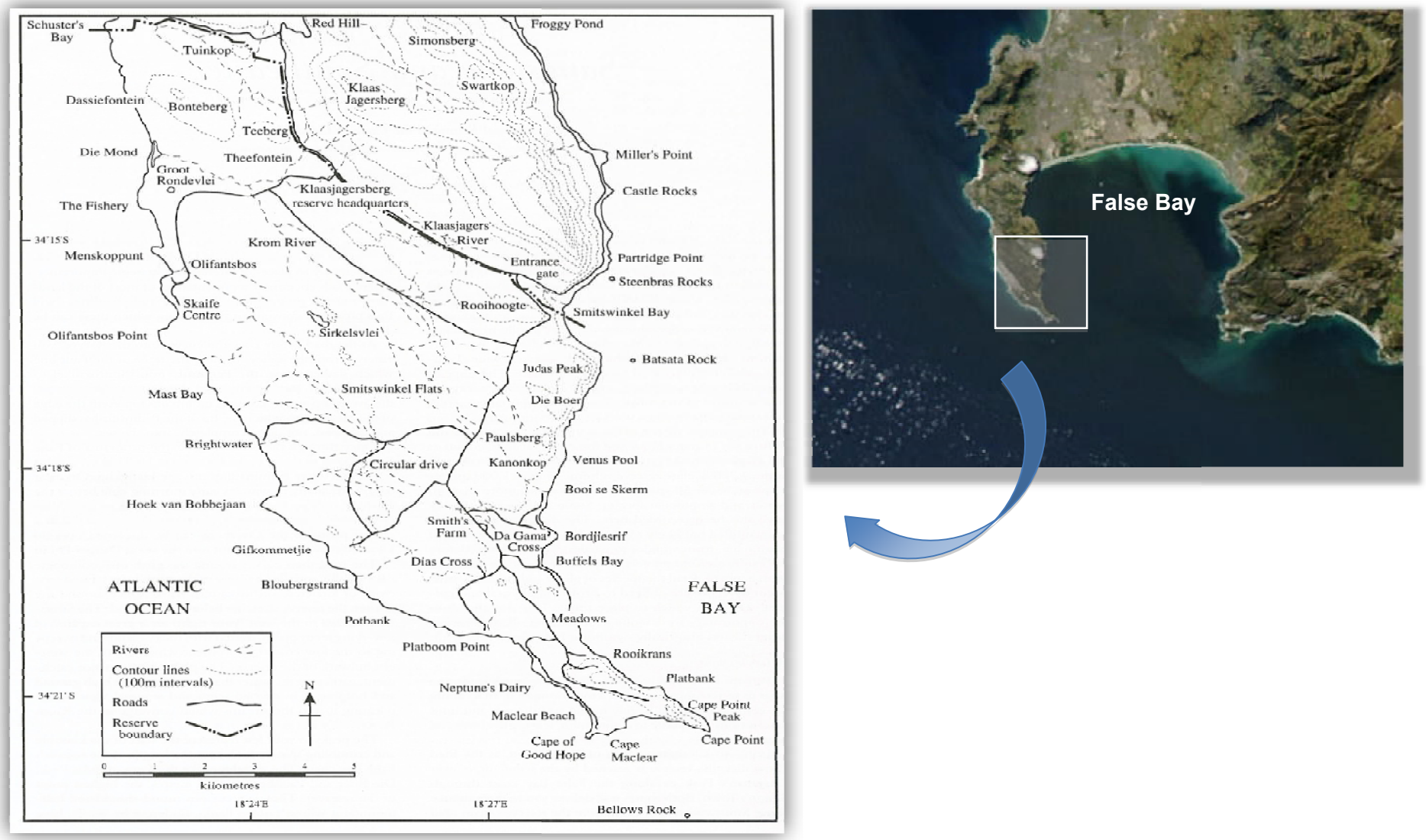

Fig 2 a, b - The Cape Peninsula and the Cape of Good Hope Nature Reserve, with main place names (a, left). Satellite image (b, above), courtesy of NASA, nasaimages.org. Map from Fraser and McMahon 1994.

Geology and Soils

Most of the Reserve's surface rock is the very hard, coarse-grained, almost pure quartzitic sandstone of the Peninsula Formation of the Table Mountain Group, comprising grains and milky-white pebbles of water-worn quartzite. Variations in hardness have led to irregular weathering and erosion and given rise to some interesting and attractive, if small-scale, rock formations. Joint and bedding-plane weathering, for example, has resulted in the block-shaped boulders that are a feature of the eastern face of Paulsberg, the western escarpment and the northern hill peaks.

The Table Mountain Group sandstones and shales are part of the Cape Supergroup sediments, laid down over a period of 110 million years when the area formed the edge of an inland sea until some 340 million years ago. The sedimentary layers can be seen to best effect in the cliffs at the Peninsula's tip. At the base of Cape Maclear and on Dias Beach the Reserve's (and the Table Mountain Group's) oldest sediments are found. These are distinctly maroon or purplish bands or exposed, flat outcrops (from which the upper sediments have been eroded) of the Graafwater Formation deposited 450 million years ago. They comprise fine-grained shales or mudstones, softer than the overlying sandstones.

Beneath the sediments lies the Cape Granite batholith, a massive foundation of slow-cooled, large-crystalled magma that uplifted the region some 600 million years ago. This was worn almost flat by erosion before it sank once more, and on it were deposited the enormous depth of sediments that form today's surface geology. This granite is now exposed only at sea level at the Peninsula's tip, notably below the new lighthouse at Cape Point and on the east coast south of Rooikrans. It also occurs as "blinders" – small islands or near-surface domed pinnacles. The Bellows, 3.8 km SSW of Cape Point, is one such. Although the granite is occasionally just visible through binoculars, it is manifested more typically as an area of heavy swell or white water. This feature is familiar and useful to birders seawatching from Cape Point and the exposed ledges of the Cape of Good Hope.

The Peninsula escaped the local buckling of the Earth's crust 278-215 million years ago that formed the Cape Folded Belt Mountains. Its rock strata have remained horizontal or, at most, very gently inclined. The whole of the Reserve has, however, dropped some 100 m, with the Cape Point block separated from the Simon’s Town block by a major fault which runs northwest from Smitswinkel Bay to Scarborough, a line followed today by the northern Reserve boundary and plateau road.

More recent geological features are the raised boulder beaches at, amongst other places, the Cape of Good Hope car park, Platboom and Olifantsbos Bay. These were formed perhaps 6 000 years ago when sea levels were 2 m higher than they are today. When the sea levels were much lower 100 000-20 000 years ago, sand was blown from the exposed seabed of False Bay across some parts of the Peninsula to form narrow dunes which have subsequently consolidated. Examples of these run northwest from Buffels Bay, The Meadows and Smitswinkel Bay. Smaller dune plumes run parallel to the coast on the western seaboard from Dias Beach and Hesters-dam. The "climbing-falling" dunes at Cape Maclear and Platboom are rare examples on the Peninsula of still active systems that have not been fixed by development or colonisation by, mainly alien, vegetation (Low 2012). Also of marine origin is the narrow band of calcarenite, formed of wind-blown sand and shell-grit cemented together by calcium carbonate, which starts just north of Buffels Bay and runs north low down along the undulating flanks of the east

coast hills.

Soils derived from the Table Mountain Group sandstones make up the majority of those found at the Reserve and are "sugary", thin, grey, shallow, acidic (pH *ca* 3.5) and notoriously poor in nutrients. They contain very little humus, so their capacity to retain water is very low. The soils of the central plateau are deeper and contain more organic matter. They drain less freely and may become waterlogged in winter. Coastal and other soils that contain marine sand are generally neutral or slightly alkaline and richer in nutrients. The soils of the mountains are of the Mispah Series of the Mispah Form; soils of the Fernwood Series form on the lower slopes, and Cartef Series soils in poorly-drained depressions. Humoferric podzols of the Houwhoek Form may develop where iron can accumulate. The marine-sand derived soils are of the Mispah and Fernwood Forms (Taylor 1984b).

Freshwater

Freshwater bodies are scarce at the Reserve and are characteristically very low in nutrients, dark (the colour of strong tea), and peaty because of high concentrations of suspended fragmentary plant material and humic substances (Raubenheimer and Day 1991). Birds such as wildfowl and waders that are common at more nutritious, alkaline waterbodies elsewhere in the region are, consequently, rare at the Reserve.

The major drainage system is the Krom River. This rises in the Smitswinkel Flats and flows northwest, joining the Klaasjagers River before discharging into the estuary at Die Mond. Smaller streams run into the sea at Brightwater, Platboom, Buffels Bay and Booi se Skerm. The largest of the Reserve's 14 permanent or near-permanent open freshwater bodies is Sirkelsvlei (6.3 ha and 1.4 m deep when full). Groot Rondevlei, a shallow depression about 50 m in diameter in the old dunes near Die Mond, is the second largest, but dries up in summer when the temperature in the mats of sedges and waterweed can exceed 50˚C (Loveridge 1980). The remaining waterbodies are smaller and the shallow ones dry up in summer. Numerous pans or vleis form in winter where the water table reaches the surface. Sirkelsvlei is likely spring-fed; the other vleis receive their water input mainly from ground-surface trickle and soil seep. Water temperature on the surface ranges between 11˚C and 30˚C; in the deeper vleis the bottom water may be 9˚C cooler than the surface, but a difference of 2˚-5˚C between top and bottom is more usual (Gardiner 1988). The water is generally very acidic (Suurdam may have a pH as low as 3.0). Sirkelsvlei is atypical having a relatively high pH and high salinity, possibly because its age and size have exposed it to greater input of wind-blown salt spray than the other vleis.

Marine Environment

Cape Point is not, contrary to popular opinion, the place where “Two Oceans” (nominally the Indian and Atlantic) meet. It is, however, part of a much larger region of overlap between a major ocean current and an upwelling system. These are, respectively, the warm-water Agulhas Current and the very much colder Benguela Upwelling System. The former has its origins in the South Equatorial Current of the Indian Ocean and travels along South Africa's east and south coast in a narrow arc, generally 10-60 km wide. It flows at between 3.6 and 7.2 km/h and transports some 60 million cubic metres of water per second. Its surface temperature is relatively high, off Durban reaching 22˚C in August and 27˚C in March. When the current reaches the shallow waters of the Agulhas Bank off the southern tip of Africa, it is deflected offshore and turns back on itself in a vast, whirlpool-like zone of retroflection and heads back into the

Indian Ocean along the Subtropical Convergence at about 40˚S. The Agulhas Current in its entirety does not, therefore, reach Cape Point. However, relics of filaments or eddies of warm water that have detached from the main current as it spirals off Cape Agulhas do sometimes continue to meander westwards and past the Point. These often remarkably discrete bodies of water (up to 500 km in diameter) round the Point at up to 4.2 km/h and can retain their integrity for many months as they drift out into the mid-Atlantic. Trapped within them may be species of warm-water organisms; these inevitably succumb as the water-bodies decompose and are enveloped by the colder oceanic water. The amount of warm water reaching Cape Point is greatest in summer, but varies greatly according to the strength and penetration of the parent current.

The Benguela Upwelling is a phenomenon characterised by water that is cold and very rich in nutrients. It came into being about two million years ago and is essentially a product of the wind. When the southeaster blows at the Cape, surface water in the sea does not move in the same direction as the wind, but at an angle to the left of the wind direction. This results from the rotation of the Earth which sets up Coriolis forces that cause the surface waters at the Cape to travel west into the open ocean. The offshore movement of surface water creates a "space" which is filled by water rising from below. This replacement water originates from the South Atlantic and rises from a depth of about 300 m at a rate of 30 m per day to become the top layer in nearshore waters off the Cape west coast. Here its temperature is 13˚-15˚C (contrasting with the 21˚C of oceanic surface water in the Atlantic to the west of the Benguela), dropping to a decidedly chilly 9˚C off Olifantsbos Point during protracted wind events. A tongue of pronounced upwelling is the result of the particularly strong southeaster that blows across the Peninsula here, and also of the Cape Point Valley, a deep trough in the seabed that allows easy access for the upwelled water. Throughout the Benguela, which extends north to Moçamedes in southern Angola, the rising cold water brings with it a rich supply of nutrients, powering great biological productivity of everything from plankton to whales, with seaweed, sardines and seabirds in between. The Benguela Upwelling is, consequently, one of the richest marine environments and commercial fisheries in the world.

The process of upwelling can be witnessed off the Reserve's coast when the southeaster blows. Over the first day or two of a strong wind, cold, clear water upwells and the sea off the west coast becomes startlingly turquoise, especially over the shallow sandy bays at Platboom and Skaife. Within a short time, dormant phyto-plankton that have been brought to the surface begin to photosynthesise in the sunlight and multiply rapidly. These are, in turn, fed upon by zooplankton which themselves multiply. With the rapidly increasing plankton populations, the water becomes cloudy and its striking colour diminishes after a few days of upwelling. When the southeaster abates, the upwelling loses its strength and those plankton that have not been eaten then die or become dormant and sink along with their eggs. These will provide the next generation when the southeaster blows again and brings them to the surface.

Climate

The Reserve shares with the rest of the south-western Cape a "Mediterranean-type" climate. This essentially boils down to warm, dry summers and cool, wet winters. Over and above this, the Cape of Good Hope has two climatic claims to fame: it is the windiest spot on continental Africa, and its temperature regime is the most equable in South Africa. Superimposed on this is the influence of the sea, and it is fair to say that the climate of the Reserve is essentially that of the sea around it.

In summer, the Cape weather is regulated by a belt of high-pressure cells that encircles the globe at about 40˚S. These cells move from west to east with saddles of low pressure between them. As the summer heat warms the interior of South Africa, air rises and the pressure there drops. This causes air from the high-pressure belt south of the country to flow over the edge of the continent into this low-pressure area. When a high-pressure cell lies just to the southwest of the Cape, the wind over the Peninsula reaches gale force from the southeast - the famous "Cape Doctor". At the Reserve, the southeaster is funnelled between the mountains of the Peninsula and the Hottentots' Holland across False Bay and so is particularly fierce when it hits the bay's western coastline. Once the high has moved on, a low-pressure saddle then lies directly south of the country. This is generally too far to bring rain, but occasionally a low will brush the edge of the Peninsula, bringing low nimbus cloud and light rain to the Reserve. More often, as the high moves eastwards the wind abates in the northern Peninsula, giving calm and hot conditions there but not always over its tip. Here, sea breezes caused by the landward movement of cool air from the sea to replace warm air which has risen over the land as the day heats up, act to maintain the Reserve's cooler, windy weather.

In winter, the southern hemisphere cools and the band of pressure cells moves north to lie directly across the Cape. This brings a regular succession of cold fronts (at least one a week in midwinter) to the Peninsula, with high winds and rain arriving from the west and northwest. These are preceded by low cloud which forms against the mountains to the north of the Reserve and, occasionally, on the summit of Paulsberg. The wind becomes gusty and strengthens and heavy rain soon follows. After the passage of a cold front the wind backs southwesterly, then southerly and a few showers occur as the clouds disperse. Clear, cold weather then sets in and the southeaster may blow for a day or two, or there are a few calm days before the weather deteriorates with the approach of another front.

In May 1984 a particularly memorable "blow" occurred following a rapid drop in atmospheric pressure. The wind exceeded 100 km/h and waves 16 m high were recorded at Slangkop, just to the north. Hundreds of metres of well-vegetated dunes between Die Mond and Olifantsbos Point simply disappeared, and some beaches made a 20 m or more incursion into the hinterland. Such storms – an intrusion of the "Roaring Forties" into Cape waters – are rare, but nevertheless important in shaping the Reserve's coastline, its dunes, estuaries, sandbars, lagoons and beach profiles.

The summer southeaster combines with the winter northwester to allow the Reserve only about 15 days a year that can be classified as "calm" (wind speed less than 5 km/h). The average summer windspeed at Cape Point is 40 km/h, about double that of Cape Town Airport. At Olifantsbos Point on the west coast of the Reserve, the average summer wind speed is 14 km/h. In winter this drops to 6.5 km/h. Despite the direction and strength of the seasonal prevailing winds, the majority of waves are generated from the southwest, with very limited nearshore current generation. The effects of incoming waves are dampened by the extensive kelp beds, notably of Sea Bamboo *Ecklonia maxima*, that are visible at low tide; stranded kelp and other marine algae also help stabilise the beaches by reducing the movement of sand. Rip currents become particularly well-developed off Dias Beach and may be observed from the Cape Point view sites.

The average temperature over the year at Cape Point is 15.6˚C; the average minimum and maximum are 7.8˚C and 26.2˚C, respectively. These figures are about 10% lower than those recorded at nearby

Simon's Town. This "equable climate" reflects the fact that the 6˚C difference between average daily minimum and maximum temperatures at the Reserve is relatively small, as any potentially high or low temperatures are moderated by the sea, keeping the area relatively warm in winter and cool in summer. As far as I know, frost and snow have never been recorded here. The most wintry event on record, as related by Green (1947), was the sighting of an iceberg off Cape Point in January 1850!

Rainfall in the Reserve is variable but generally lower than further north on the Peninsula. Cape Point records 402 mm a year on average; at Klaasjagersberg this figure rises to 565 mm. The heaviest downpour at the latter site accounted for over a quarter of the average annual rainfall, when 152 mm was recorded in one deluge on 11 April 1993. Additional moisture is captured by the east-coast mountains when moist sea air, blown against the shore by the southeaster, is forced up and condenses as orographic cloud on their peaks and upper seaward slopes. The west coast is often enveloped in damp fog on calm days in autumn when warm oceanic air is blown towards the coast. This is cooled and condenses into fog when it passes over the cold nearshore waters of the Benguela Upwelling. Occasionally, and briefly, this fog envelops the whole Reserve, with only the highest peaks protruding from a sea of white cloud – a most spectacular and eerily primordial sight. The cloud that frequently caps the summit of Cape Point Peak obscures the lighthouse there for up to 900 hours a year. Following the sinking of the Portuguese steamship *Lusitania* on Bellows Rock in 1911, the new lighthouse was built lower down the cliff towards the Peninsula's tip and beneath the offending fog (Anon 1913, Fraser and McMahon 1994).

Vegetation

Overall, 94 indigenous plant families are represented at the Reserve, comprising 382 genera and 1 038 species. Three species represented by two varieties and at least five natural hybrids give a grand total of 1 046 indigenous plant taxa. The largest genera here are *Erica* (44 species), *Ficinia* (24), and *Aspalathus* (23). Fourteen plant species are endemic to the Reserve.

The vegetation of the Reserve has been well studied, notably by Hugh Taylor who, in the 1960s, mapped the distribution of the various plant communities and drew up a species list. The following description is based largely on his thesis (Taylor 1969) and publications therefrom (Taylor 1983, 1984a, b, c), to which reference should be made for further details and distribution maps. The basic vegetation types are also figured in Fraser and McMahon (1994).

Taylor found that at the simplest level the Reserve's vegetation could be divided into three communities or vegetation types: Coast Fynbos, Inland Fynbos and Broad-leaved Thicket. Although these labels are, to a large extent, self-explanatory, Inland Fynbos does sometimes occur at the coast and Coast Fynbos inland, while some narrow-leaved plants occur in Broad-leaved Thicket. Nevertheless, the names do reflect the major distinguishing features, be it distribution or leaf-shape. Each of the major vegetation types can be further subdivided into those assemblages or groupings of species that share physical characteristics or occur under particular physical conditions of, for example, moisture content or soil type. Each of these vegetation types supports fairly distinct assemblages of birds.

Coast Fynbos occurs wherever marine sands have accumulated. These are the coarse, hard-grained sands comprising shell fragments that essentially make up beaches and coastal dunes. Coast Fynbos is found along the coastal belt but also where such sand has been blown inland. Old raised beaches and dunes,

indicating ancient sea levels dating back tens or hundreds of thousands of years, have also been colonised by Coast Fynbos. One dune plume stretches almost the entire width of the Peninsula from Buffels Bay to just inland of Brightwater, so it is possible to find "coastal" plants as far away from the coast as it is possible to be in the Reserve. Taylor (1969) identified four subdivisions of Coast Fynbos, dividing them yet further where a particular plant community warranted it.

In its broadest context, **Inland Fynbos** is the vegetation type that covers the major part (82%) of the Reserve. It is confined to acid soils formed by the slow erosion of the underlying sandstone bedrock and generally contain little humus. Inland Fynbos is found from almost sea level to the highest point of the Reserve (the summit of Paulsberg), on level plains and gentle slopes, to almost vertical cliff faces. It is the richest vegetation community found here, although the number of species present, or at least apparent, at any one time depends upon the time elapsed since the last fire. The best indicator species of this vegetation type is the restio *Thamnochortus lucens*.

The most extensive and botanically variable component of Inland Fynbos (and of the Reserve as a whole) is **Upland Mixed Fynbos**. This occurs on shallow soils comprising coarse white sand, which on slopes is very well drained. The oldest vegetation is a three-layered affair, with the characteristically dome-shaped bushes of Tree Pagoda *Mimetes fimbriifolius* and Green Tree Pincushion *Leucospermum conocarpodendron* subsp. *viridum* the tallest (up to 3.5 m) elements, a middle layer of Golden Conebush *Leucadendron laureolum* 90-120 cm high, and the lowest a mixture of 30-75 cm high ericaceous shrubs and restios. When in flower, the *Leucospermum* and *Mimetes* attract high numbers of Cape Sugarbirds and sunbirds.

The extensive central plain that is such a feature of the Reserve is home to relatively dull-looking **Restionaceous Plateau Fynbos**. This extends at an altitude of 90-135 m from the southern arm of Circular Drive out across the Smitswinkel Flats and into the Krom River valley in the northwest. The soil is typically acidic (pH 3.9-5.6), there is very little exposed rock or much stone in the soil, and drainage is neither particularly good nor particularly bad. The major botanical feature is a dense layer of restios above which *Leucadendron laureolum* shrubs form a broken canopy.

Restionaceous Plateau Fynbos is very rich in plant species and may be considered a mosaic of Upland Mixed Fynbos and **Restionaceous Tussock Marsh**. The latter is found in those low-lying, flat areas of the Reserve on which water collects in winter but dries out in summer. Where drainage is particularly poor, with bedrock very near the surface, small pans are formed which hold water (and frogs) in winter, but are too shallow to persist more than a short time into summer when the rains stop. Restionaceous Tussock Marsh recovers relatively quickly after a fire and within a year or two of a burn will virtually be back to its prefire state, a condition that can take 10 years or more to be re-attained in Upland Mixed Fynbos. There is plenty of Tussock Marsh and Plateau Fynbos around Circular Drive, and in the early post-fire period this is a good place to find open-country birds such as Plain-backed Pipit and Blacksmith Lapwing.

A welcome break from the Reserve's rather featureless central plains are patches of tall, lush, dense vegetation containing woody shrubs and often, on the fringes, with a carpet of the Bracken *Pteridium aquilinum*. These constitute ***Berzelia-Osmitopsis* Seepage Fynbos** that is restricted to permanent seeps, small areas of deep, damp peaty soil that bank up behind ledges or steps of sandstone. The impounding effect of the rock ensures that the seeps are

permanently wet, allowing a distinctive community to flourish. The most distinctive plants, and those that give the community its name, are Marsh Daisy *Osmitopsis asteriscoides* and Fonteinbos *Berzelia abrotanoides*. The rather scarce Marsh Pagoda *Mimetes hirtus* is an occasional component and forms dense stands at Olifantsbos, Gilli Dam and in an area a few metres west of the roadside not far from the Homestead (now also known as Buffelsfontein) at Smith's Farm. Orange-breasted Sunbirds are particularly attracted to this shrub when in flower. Seepage vegetation in general supports a number of bird species that would otherwise be absent from the expansive plains of the Smitswinkel Flats and similar landscapes elsewhere on the Reserve.

The permanently damp ground and, in some cases, the proximity of running water and vleis, afford the seepage vegetation some measure of protection against fire. **Broad-leaved Thicket**, the final major vegetation type of the reserve, achieves this through a combination of position and plant structure. It occurs amongst jumbled boulders and in sheltered gullies and hollows protected on the one side by the sea and the other by dunes or rocky terraces and cliffs, and the plants themselves are large and thick-limbed, with underground woody rootstocks and dormant, epicormic buds set deep in the stem that can resprout even if all the foliage has been burnt.

In sheltered hollows in the dunes of marine sand at Buffels Bay, Platboom and the west coast between Olifantsbos and Die Mond, amongst other places, a long fire interval will see the Dune Mixed Fynbos being ousted by ***Sideroxylon*** **Thicket**. White Milkwood *Sideroxylon inerme* requires a good depth of leaf-litter compost and a certain amount of shade and shelter before its seeds will germinate and its saplings thrive. Such conditions may take many fire-free years to establish but, given time, the Milkwood will become the dominant species, almost to the complete exclusion of other shrubs. Before this climax vegetation is reached, the thicket may comprise a variety of evergreen, berry-bearing shrubs such as Sea Guarri *Euclea racemosa*, Dune Saffronwood *Cassine maritima* and Coast Olive *Olea exasperata*.

Broad-leaved Thicket may be described as "Indigenous Forest". Euston-Brown (1992) lists 11 patches at the Reserve from seven localities, totalling 12.24 ha. None of the patches is very large and many have been fragmented by fire or the woodsman’s axe. Nor are they particularly rich in the tree or large shrub species required to qualify as a "forest". Nevertheless, they are of considerable local conservation value and interest, not least because they increase the diversity of habitats and support birds and other wildlife that would otherwise be absent from the Reserve.

Alien vegetation formerly dominated large swathes of the reserve (see, e.g., Middlemiss 1960, Hall 1961, Coke 1962, Taylor 1969a, Taylor and Macdonald 1985, Macdonald *et al.* 1987). Woody Australian shrubs, such as Rooikrans *Acacia cyclops*, Port Jackson *A. saligna* and Long-leaved Wattle *A. longifolia*, were particularly widespread and formed dense, often uniform, impenetrable stands in coastal areas, on dune plumes, and in areas disturbed by road and building construction. Frequent fires facilitated their spread into previously uninfested fynbos vegetation, a process compounded in the case of *A. cyclops* by bird dispersal of its seeds (Fraser 1990). Stands of regenerating and coppiced *Eucalyptus* spp 10 m or more high dominated the Krom Valley and Theefontein. Specimen trees, including *Eucalyptus* spp and Pedunculate Oak *Quercus robur*, and a variety of ornamental shrubs were planted round homesteads at Klaasjagersberg, Olifantsbos, Smith’s Farm, and elsewhere.

Clearance of alien vegetation to restore and conserve the Reserve's unique fynbos and its associated wildlife was not seen as a priority until the 1970s (Clark 1985; earlier management had focussed on the replacement of fynbos with artificial pastures to support non-native antelope introduced for public spectacle). Alien trees and woody shrubs have now been all but eliminated from the Reserve by a long, but by necessity on-going, attritional programme of mechanical, chemical and biological clearance. The huge thickets of wattles that once dominated parts of the Reserve have been removed and the land restored to natural vegetation, and no mature *Acacia saligna* or *A. longifolia* apparently remain (H Langley, pers. comm.). This is a remarkable conservation achievement and a credit to the Park authorities. Some historical, non-invasive specimen trees have been retained, notably the Monterey Cypress *Cupressus macrocarpa* and fig *Ficus* sp at the Homestead that are considered part of the site's cultural heritage.

Alien woody-plant infestations and trees provided habitat for a number of bird species that would not otherwise occur in such high numbers, or at all, in the Reserve. The control and eradication of aliens has resulted in the decline or disappearance of some of these from the Reserve. This should be welcomed, however, as from a conservation perspective the retention of non-native invasive plants cannot be justified nor defended on the grounds that they support locally unusual or nominally charismatic species of birds.

Birds and Birding

I lived on the Reserve in 1984-86 and made frequent visits over the next ten years. Most of the bird records in the systematic list (below) derive from this period. I have also incorporated modern records from birding colleagues, print and on-line sources. The latter are, by the nature of birding, predominantly of regionally (and sometimes nationally) rare and unusual species. Those species, and there are many, that are common in the south-western Cape but very rare in the Reserve itself are not, therefore, generally recorded by casual birders at the Reserve. As it stands, there have been more records here of, for example, American Golden Plover and Pectoral Sandpiper (both Nearctic waders), than African Pipit and Red-faced Mousebird, two species that are otherwise widespread in the south-western Cape. A dedicated patch-watcher at the Reserve could do much to address this paradox and establish the current status of "common" south-western Cape and northern Peninsula species at the Reserve.

The following list can, therefore, be seen partly as an historical document as well as a checklist. Against this baseline, more recent records and changes in distribution and abundance of bird species can be assessed in the context of landuse, vegetational changes (notably the removal of the alien invasive plants), fire frequency and post-fire succession. A comparison of the Reserve's historic and contemporary bird species and populations in the light of responses to climate change and other anthropogenic factors at a sub-continental level (e.g. Simmons *et al.* 2004, Huntley and Barnard 2012) and more locally (Hockey and Midgley 2009) might also prove interesting.

It has to be confessed that the Reserve is not the most exciting spot for casual birding. Its tally of 279 species, or less than a third of southern Africa's 850 or so species, is rather paltry when compared with other reserves in the subcontinent, particularly those of savanna and subtropical forest.

As a general rule, there are more species of plants and resident animals as one moves towards the equator (fynbos plants are a

notable exception to this) and, coupled with the diversity and richness of habitats, with grasslands, thicket, forest and nutritious wetlands, even modestly-sized, up-country South African reserves can boast bird-species lists that exceed 400.

Sites with impressive bird lists also often lie on major migration routes or act as a magnet to migrating birds and off-course rarities. The Cape of Good Hope, in contrast, is not on the way to anywhere and any terrestrial migrant heading south will find itself in trouble once it passes the lighthouse at Cape Point. The majority of northern hemisphere migrants stop well before they get as far as the Reserve, although some species, such as waders, Steppe Buzzard and White Stork, do pass through in spring and autumn as they move around the coast. This may classify them as "passage migrants". A few local species, notably House Sparrow and Cape Weaver, also display patterns of occurrence that place them in this category, although where they are "migrating" to is anyone's guess. "Dispersal" might be a better term than "migration" in this context.

As mentioned, the Reserve also attracts rather few of the land- or freshwater birds that characterise other parts, often quite close by, of the south-western Cape. This is almost certainly a response to the combination of the low-nutrient status and the simple structure of the vegetation (areas of low, sparse heath and scattered bushes predominate, rather than denser thicket or woodland), the shortage of open, nutrient-rich freshwater habitats and muddy estuaries, and the exposed nature of the landscape, buffeted as it is almost constantly by salt-laden winds.

Bushbirds are, therefore, generally scarce and not altogether conspicuous; freshwater birds are virtually non-existent; and it is considerably easier (or at least used to be) to see shorebirds in greater numbers and at closer quarters at any number of sites elsewhere in the south-western Cape. But if you are prepared to work a little harder at your birding and judge the value of each sighting in the context of its rarity at the Reserve, then the place definitely has its merits.

In describing these and other aspects of birds and birding at the Reserve it is convenient to break the area down into its component habitats, as many of the species tend to be quite selective in their choice of habitat.

Fynbos Birds

Mountain Fynbos is the most extensive habitat at the Reserve. It can be subdivided according to particular plant communities and their species composition (see above). These, in turn, support fairly distinct assemblages of birds. It is appropriate to describe these on the same basis as the vegetation. In 1984-86, I studied the birds of three of Taylor's (1984b) vegetation types or communities with post-fire ages of 1.5, 5.5 and >15 years. Plots were marked out in these and the birds in them counted regularly. The results provide an indication of the species and numbers of birds that occupy each vegetation type at a particular stage in its post-fire recovery. In a nutshell, the results also display how ornithologically depauperate much of the Reserve is, with some plots supporting an average density of less than one bird per hectare.

Twenty-nine bird species were recorded in the plots combined, the highest number being found in 1.5-year-old vegetation, the lowest in 5.5 year old. In the immediate post-fire period, birds tend not to discriminate between vegetation types, largely because there is no vegetation. Open-country species such as pipits and plovers predominate across the board, therefore, and it is only when the

plants begins to recover that the different bird species return to colonise the different vegetation types.

Birds of Upland Mixed Fynbos

At 1.5 years old, this vegetation displayed the highest number of species (Table 1), including nine that were exclusive to this particular age and type. Upland was the slowest vegetation type to recover and the birds of the 5.5-year-old plot bore little resemblance to those of the oldest one. This contrasted with the Marsh and Plateau plots.

The results show a successional shift from an insectivore-dominated avifauna in the youngest veld to a nectarivore-dominated one in the oldest. This was attributable to the maturing of the protea and pincushion bushes and the tubular-flowered *Erica* species that provide food for the sugarbirds and sunbirds. Where these plants are absent or when they are not in bloom, Upland Mixed Fynbos is almost as devoid of birds as the other vegetation types. Seasonal trends are thus superimposed on the overall pattern of succession as certain species fall out and others move in as the vegetation matures.

Wherever suitable food plants are flowering, sugarbirds and sunbirds will be found, often in abundance. Sweeps of *Erica coccinea* below the Smitswinkel viewing site and near Sirkelsvlei, for example, are very attractive to Orange-breasted Sunbirds in early winter. Pale-yellow-flowered *Erica gilva* is widespread, with extensive stands near the Cape of Good Hope/Main Road junction and on the slopes of Vasco da Gama Peak. These and smaller patches alongside the Main Road attract nectarivores, particularly Orange-breasted Sunbirds, in summer and autumn. In winter and spring many proteaceous species come into flower. *Protea repens* and *P. lepidocarpodendron* on the slopes of Rooihoogte and the Teeberg-Bonteberg range attract hundreds of birds. Many of these might not be considered typical nectar-feeders, but birds are opportunists and few will pass over the chance of a sweet treat.

The species that are attracted to these proteas and the proportions in which they occur, if not their absolute numbers, can be assessed from mistnetting. Table 2 lists the birds ringed in flowering proteas on the slopes of Teeberg over four winter days and gives an idea of what is utilising this copious and readily accessible food supply.

The pincushion *Leucospermum conocarpodendron* is a similarly alluring food source. From late August almost to Christmas their inflorescences attract Cape Sugarbirds and a variety of opportunists. Of the latter, Red-winged Starling is perhaps the most conspicuous. While feeding, the birds get covered in pollen and many sport bright yellow heads, often leading to some interesting misidentifications. The starlings feed not only on nectar but also on beetles and other satellite insects attracted to the flowers.

There are few ornithological attractions other than nectarivores in Upland Mixed Fynbos, much of which is characterised by a good deal of exposed rock and sparse, stunted vegetation. A few species are worth looking for, however – you are most likely to find Sentinel Rock Thrush and Ground Woodpecker in this habitat, and Cape Siskins are regular in small numbers on the hillsides and rocky plateaux.

Birds of Restionaceous Plateau Fynbos

As is apparent from Table 3, this is one of the most uninspiring habitats on offer, at all ages, to birds and birders. It is characterised by low densities of small insectivorous species, and the three age classes can manage a mere 14 species between them. Only the

presence of Hottentot Buttonquail, bolstered by Cloud Cisticola and Cape Clapper Lark, prevents this vegetation type from descending into ornithological purgatory. An enigmatic and poorly-known species, the Buttonquail is perhaps the Reserve's most interesting and sought-after landbird. Recorded sporadically in the mid-1980s it was assumed to have disappeared from the Reserve until "rediscovered" in 1994. In April that year a survey of three-year-old Restionaceous Plateau Fynbos and Restionaceous Tussock Marsh gave an estimated Reserve population of 310 birds (Ryan and Hockey 1995). It is possible that the species was overlooked in the intervening period, as few birders were likely to have investigated the appropriate habitat. Alternatively, the Buttonquail may experience fluctuations in its population in response to factors such as vegetation age or rainfall.

The most accessible Restionaceous Plateau Fynbos is alongside the northern and southern arms of Circular Drive, and it is (or at least was in the days of more regular management burns) possible to see or hear the Cisticola and the Lark, together with the occasional Plain-backed Pipit, from your car. Although very occasionally flushed from the roadside, the Buttonquail is likely to require a walk along one of the Reserve trails.

Birds of Restionaceous Tussock Marsh

This vegetation is included under the umbrella of "fynbos", although from the birds' perspective it would fit just as comfortably into the "Freshwater" section as Restionaceous Tussock Marsh is, by definition, flooded in winter.

This habitat supports a few species that are uncommon and localised in the Reserve: African Snipe in recently-burnt marshy valleys, for example, and Levaillant's Cisticola which is the most characteristic bird of the tall, uniform stands of restios. Because the ground is wet, post-fire recovery of the vegetation is relatively quick and this, in turn, is reflected by the speedy re-establishment (within a couple of years) of those species that were originally displaced by the fire. Insectivores dominate at all ages and the Yellow Bishop appears to be the only granivore to exploit seeds in this habitat. Table 4 lists the species recorded in Restionaceous Tussock Marsh and their broad successional patterns.

Birds of Coastal Thicket or Strandveld

The narrow strip of Coastal Thicket that runs in a broken ribbon along much of the Reserve's coast provides a contrasting habitat to the Inland Fynbos. Here the soils are relatively deep and nutritious and a variety of evergreen, berry-bearing shrubs supports a suite of birds that differs markedly to that of fynbos. Although the structure of the vegetation often resembles the densest mature Upland Mixed Fynbos, with relatively tall, compact shrubs, the birds that characterise it are very different. Nectar feeders are rare (Southern Double-collared Sunbird is mainly insectivorous in Coastal Thicket) and frugivores (fruit eaters) or folivores (leaf- and bud-eaters), which are all but absent in fynbos, are common. There is some overlap between the habitats of insectivores (Karoo Prinia and Grey-backed Cisticola) and generalists (Cape Robin-Chat), but these occur in higher densities in Coastal Thicket (Table 5). Fifteen other species, including Fiscal Flycatcher, Common Waxbill, Brimstone Canary and Bar-throated Apalis, none of which was found in the fynbos plots, occurred in lower densities.

At 14.5 birds per hectare, the average density of birds in the Coastal Thicket plot is almost 12 times that of mature protea-dominated Upland Mixed Fynbos and almost 50 times that of recently-burnt Restionaceous Tussock Marsh. This situation prevails even where

the habitats are within a couple of hundred metres of each other. Seasonal variation in numbers and density of birds is also less marked in Coastal Thicket, so you will at least have a reasonable chance of finding some birds there at any time of year, unlike the fynbos where birds can be hard to find unless the proteas and ericas are in flower.

The Olifantsbos area is the most well-watched and accessible Coastal Thicket. As a result, it has produced some of the most uncommon and localised records for the Reserve, together with the odd quality vagrant such as Icterine and European Marsh Warblers (both first records for the south-western Cape). Other thicket patches elsewhere are probably equally or even more productive, notably at Gifkommetjie and along the False Bay coast north of Bordjiesrif, but these are rarely scrutinised by birders.

A major attractant to birds and birders on the coast at Olifantsbos Bay is a patch of Wild Dagga *Leonotis leonurus* (Lamiaceae). This flowers in November-December and March-April and attracts a multitude of nectar feeders. Predominant amongst these are Malachite Sunbirds. The relevant species account describes just how abundant these can be. Suffice it to say here that an estimated 540 birds were present in the 400 m^2 *Leonotis* patch in December 1987 (Underhill and Fraser 1989). In some years there may be fewer birds, but there is generally always some response to the plants coming into flower. Sometimes the sharp divide between Coastal Thicket and fynbos birds breaks down, and the likes of Cape Sugarbird and Orange-breasted Sunbird will be found in the *Leonotis*, the sunbird even occasionally being the most abundant species. This may be a response to temporary loss of local fynbos through burning (Fraser and McMahon 1992b). Nevertheless, Malachite Sunbird comes out "tops" overall, and more than 1 200 were ringed there over the years.

Birds of Alien Vegetation

In common with many areas of the south-western Cape, the Reserve has been invaded or infested by a variety of alien plants. This has a very damaging impact on the indigenous flora, but its effects on birds may be viewed in a different light. I counted the birds of Upland Mixed Fynbos plots on Vasco da Gama Peak that were infested to various degrees with *Acacia cyclops*, and of mixed-alien infestations of Restionaceous Tussock Marsh with small seepage areas at Theefontein. The results showed, not surprisingly, that fynbos birds were gradually replaced with species typical of woodland or coastal scrub as the alien infestation increased. The extent and exact nature of this replacement depended upon the type of indigenous vegetation and on the species of aliens with which it was invaded. So, with increasing infestation, Cape Sugarbird and Orange-breasted Sunbird became increasingly scarce, and species such as Southern Boubou and Dusky Flycatcher, which were never found in pure fynbos, were able to colonise the alien thickets.

Although the flowers of Spider Gum *Eucalyptus lehmannii* attracted sunbirds and the occasional Cape Sugarbird, there was a general transformation of the nectarivore-dominated fynbos bird community to an insectivorous one in the alien vegetation (Tables 6 and 7). A consequence of this shift is that if the pollinators of the few remaining fynbos flowers are excluded by alien vegetation, the potential exists for the breakdown of the bird/plant pollination relationship. If pollinators become scarce, the few remaining bird-pollinated proteas and ericas will experience reduced pollination and lower seed-set, a situation that would exacerbate the decrease in indigenous plant density initiated by the infestation.

In the Reserve as a whole, the presence of many bird species can be directly attributed to the presence of alien vegetation. African Fish

Eagle, Rufous-chested Sparrowhawk and Hadeda nest in the alien trees at Klaasjagersberg; African Harrier-Hawk, Fork-tailed Drongo and Lesser Honeyguide have been seen in the gum trees there. The presence of Acacia Pied Barbets at Olifantsbos set in motion a train of thought which elegantly linked the broadening range of the barbet to the spread of alien trees in the southern and south-western Cape (Macdonald 1983, 1986). If there was any doubt as to the dependency of the barbet on the aliens, it can be dispelled by the fact that the barbets rapidly disappeared from Olifantsbos following the removal of the alien trees.

Many other bird species have become scarce or vanished altogether from the Reserve as the aliens are removed. This situation should not be regretted, however, as their departure is a consequence of the welcome return of the fynbos and its birds that should be here naturally. The Reserve will become even more important in this respect as other parts of the Fynbos Biome and the Cape Floral Kingdom as a whole, with its astonishing and globally-unique levels of botanical richness and endemism, become increasingly overrun with invasive alien vegetation.

Birds of Freshwater and Estuaries

The Reserve's few freshwater bodies are of little appeal to birds. Their muddy margins may look just right for waders, but often enough a Blacksmith Lapwing is about the best that can be hoped for. Similarly, the open water itself rarely attracts wildfowl. The Homestead pond is too small to support ducks, but the occasional Moorhen makes an appearance and the Bulrush *Typha capensis* beds sometimes hold Lesser Swamp and African Sedge Warblers. A roost of Black-crowned Night Herons in the Camphor Trees *Tarchonanthus camphoratus* is a notable feature here.

Sirkelsvlei is occasionally visited by Egyptian and Spur-winged Geese, but these are not permanent residents. The odd Black Duck and Little Grebe also occur, but the flocks of waterfowl that are typically associated with open freshwater are absent. This is a consequence of the "blackwater" syndrome, being very low levels of nutrients, and high levels of tannins leached from decomposing fynbos plants.

Freshwater is less abundant on the Reserve as open water than in the seeps and marshes that are dotted over the level or more gently sloping plains and foothills. In winter, ephemeral flooded vleis and pans on the flatter parts of the Reserve do attract Yellow-billed Duck, and the occasional Hamerkop or Little Egret in search of frogs. Streamside vegetation, such as along the banks of the Krom River, is taller and lusher than the surrounding fynbos and provides cover for the likes of Cape Robin-Chat and Karoo Prinia. Displaying cock Yellow Bishops are conspicuous in this habitat in spring.

Marginally more ornithologically attractive than the vleis and streams are the estuaries and lagoons, but even these are limited by their often temporary nature and their nutrient-poor freshwater input. The Die Mond lagoon, where the Krom River flows into the sea, is the Reserve's largest estuarine system, but its unpredictability reduces its appeal and usefulness to birds. The lower reaches of the river are visited by Yellow-billed Duck and, occasionally, Moorhen. When the lagoon is full its shallows attract foraging Common Greenshank, Pied Avocet and the occasional Black-winged Stilt and Greater Flamingo. It is, however, very important as an undisturbed roost and ablution facility. Gulls and cormorants are almost always to be found bathing and preening, and in summer it is visited by Common Terns. Over 45 000 terns have been counted here, but smaller flocks are the norm. The White-fronted Plover roost on the adjacent beach

regularly numbers between 100 and 200 birds.

Smaller, but similarly unpredictable lagoons can be found at Olifantsbos Bay and Buffels Bay. The former displays reasonably consistent pulling power for a variety of birds and is the best place for Three-banded and Kittlitz's Plovers, with occasional Reserve rarities such as Little Stint and Ruff. Buffels Bay is not a good feeding area but is a popular bathing and roosting spot for gulls and cormorants.

Birds of the Seashore

In welcome contrast to much of the Reserve's dry land, the seashore is, in places, fairly rich in bird life. Most productive are those beaches of mixed rock and sand where heaps of seaweed have been thrown up by the tide. No spot is better than Olifantsbos Bay where the festering mounds provide a bountiful food supply for sandhoppers *Talorchestia capensis* and the larvae (maggots) of kelp flies (predominantly *Coelopa africana*) which, in turn, attract a respectable selection of birds. Such rich pickings are to be had that even bushbirds make their way across the beach and onto the steaming kelp: Helmeted Guineafowl scratch around like barnyard fowl, Karoo Prinias and Levaillant’s Cisticolas hop around the heaps, and in autumn the bay is the best place to find Plain-backed Pipits, with 20 or more foraging for kelp-fly larvae.

More in keeping with intertidal habitat, Olifantsbos Bay attracts African Black Oystercatcher, Kittlitz's, White-fronted and Three-banded Plover, plus Hartlaub's and Kelp Gulls and the occasional Grey-headed Gull at any time of year. In summer, it used to be the favourite haunt of Ruddy Turnstone, Curlew Sandpiper and Common Ringed Plover. Since 2000, however, numbers of turnstones and sandpipers have crashed and both species are now rare (and in some years completely absent), although 20-30 Ringed Plovers still remain, the last such flock on the Peninsula (P Ryan, pers. comm.).

The marked reduction in migrant waders at the Reserve is part a wider, regional decline in the western Cape over the past 30 years (Ryan 2012). While migrant waders, and also breeding White-fronted Plover, have declined, Sacred and Glossy Ibis, Hadedas and Egyptian Geese have increased to the extent that they are now the characteristic species of the Reserve beaches.

Although Olifantsbos Bay is the most well-watched coastal area, there are potentially good birding sites anywhere along the western seaboard. The wide rocky platform and boulder beaches at Hoek van Bobbejaan attract Little Egret, Whimbrel, Common Greenshank and Ruddy Turnstone, and the small sandy bays between Neptune's Dairy and the Cape of Good Hope used to be crowded with jostling Sanderling.

Less productive are the long stretches of gleaming white sand of areas such as Die Mond and Platboom. Unless there is a good deposit of seaweed, these beaches are rather birdless, barring White-fronted Plovers. But an outcrop of rock, such as The Fishery, will break the monotony and provide feeding and roosting areas for a good variety of birds, from cormorants to wagtails. On the more gently sloping sandy beaches, such as at Skaife, Mast Bay and Platboom, Pied Avocets feed in the swash zone, the shallow waters of the receding waves. On the east coast, Buffels Bay tends not to attract many waders, but there are tern roosts just to the south that can be scrutinised from your car. It is worth scanning through these flocks as amongst the Swift Terns and, in summer, Common and Sandwich, a rarity might well be lurking. And I suspect that rather few birders would have predicted that South Africa's first Western Reef Heron would have pitched up here.

Birds of the Open Sea

Compensation for the general lack of landbirds at the Reserve is provided by an abundance of seabirds. Seawatching, the art or science (for it is a bit of both) of watching seabirds from the shore, requires that you ensconce yourself on an exposed clifftop in a strong wind. It can be cold and wet under such conditions, but if your timing is right and the elements are in your favour, one of the most amazing birding sights is yours for the taking.

The waters off the west coast are rich in fish and plankton, a fact that has not gone unnoticed by albatrosses, petrels and shearwaters. The Benguela Upwelling is, in consequence, the feeding area of millions of seabirds that breed on subantarctic islands and move north to spend their winter off the Cape. Although most of them forage some way offshore, a brisk wind will bring them closer in.

The Cape climate is typified in winter by processions of low-pressure systems that sweep in from the northwest bringing high winds and rain. As the frontal depressions move through, the wind often veers to the southwest and the skies clear for an hour or a day or so. It is under these conditions with an onshore wind that the seawatching can be most productive. Any wind from the western sector will, however, bring you birds. Under such conditions in April to October, seabirds in their thousands stream past the Cape, often lingering when they reach the corner of the continent.

Seabirds may be watched from Cape Point and from any vantage point along the west coast, but the plum site is the Cape of Good Hope itself (not to be confused with Cape Point, although that itself is also an exceptional seawatching site). A short, steep climb up the trail from the car park will take you to the ledges at the top of the massif where you can get some shelter in the lee of the cliffs and large boulders. If you can cope with the chilly and damp conditions, and the birds are at their best, you can enjoy a spectacle that many seasoned seawatchers consider unmatched. While not able to rival pelagic trips to the edge of the continental shelf 20-30 km to the west, the Cape of Good Hope is reckoned to provide knowledgeable and patient birders with some of the best land-based seabird watching in the world. And at least you don't get seasick. Do, however, take **extreme care** when climbing the cliff track here and when positioned on the ledges – the site is very exposed and can be slippery, and there are no rails or other safety measures for your protection.

In summer the majority of pelagic-feeding seabirds have headed south. This is the season of the southeaster and it generally doesn't blow any birder any good. Nevertheless, it is possible to see the occasional White-chinned and giant petrels off either coast. Cory's Shearwater and Sabine's Gull, two northern-hemisphere visitors, can be seen from the Point, and Arctic Skuas (and sometimes Pomarine and Long-tailed) harry the terns off Buffels Bay.

Rarities

Birding at the Reserve is enhanced by two important aspects in which the site excels: its pelagic seabirds (described above), and its rare vagrants. The number of national and regional rarities found here certainly compares very favourably with any other site in South Africa.

Finding rarities at the Reserve requires little more than persistence and luck, but timing does help. In the case of New World waders, their potential arrival is relatively predictable as most are coincident with north-westerly gales in spring. This indicates a direct transatlantic route rather than trickling down from the northern

hemisphere where they had arrived earlier in the boreal autumn and reoriented to continue their southerly migration. Other American waders may, however, ultimately find their way here by the latter route.

Other Reserve rarities include species that are well out of their range in southern Africa (such as Grey-headed Kingfisher and White-winged Widowbird) and, on more local scale, in the south-western Cape (such as Temminck's Courser and Greater Scimitarbill). Why such species should have apparently occurred at the Reserve and rarely or never elsewhere in the region may be an observational artefact reflecting a relatively high number of visiting birders. It may also, and to my mind more likely (or at least in combination with the frequency of birders), be a consequence of overshooting, reverse or drift migration, or other generally lost birds being gradually funnelled down the country or along the coast until they are steered into the "cod-end" of the Cape that is the Peninsula. Once there, they are eventually squeezed into the Reserve at its tip. Either way, the number of regional rarities recorded here is exceptional.

Because the Reserve is a geographically delimited area (and all but an island), it is possible to note birds' movements and gross changes in abundance that would be difficult to detect or monitor in the heterogeneous sprawl of the adjacent "mainland". So it is that a House Sparrow, which would not even receive a second glance anywhere else, is a bird of considerable interest here, and the sort of movements recorded on the Reserve are, nationally, almost unique. A similar situation exists with Cape Weavers, where a distinct passage, or at least regional movements, are detectable at times. Influxes of species such as Namaqua Doves and Wattled Starlings are, similarly, likely to go largely unregistered or undetectable elsewhere.

There are many species that may find their way onto the list in future (or which may already be there, but the records remain lodged in some birder's notebook). These range from birds that are common not a stone's throw from the Reserve, as noted above, to those that are the stuff of twitchers' fantasies, notably trans-Atlantic and other extreme vagrants.

The first of these categories includes species that may be comfortably predicted to make an appearance before long, such as the likes of Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea*, a sprinkling of wildfowl, and a variety of passerines (have, for example, Pied Starling *Spreo bicolor* and Red-capped Lark *Calandrella cinerea* really never made their way over the boundary fence?).

The second category can include whatever your imagination can conjure up. My personal twitching ambition (never realised) was to find a New World passerine in my mistnets at Olifantsbos. This is not altogether the American Pie in the sky it might seem, as small warblers and other songbirds from America occur every year in Europe (and may subsequently drift south), and a few have been sighted at Tristan da Cunha, a mere 3 000 km or so west of the Cape.

The fact that American Purple Gallinule, whose nearest breeding grounds are 6 000 km or so to the west across the Atlantic, is on the Reserve list, but Purple Gallinule *Porphyrio porphyrio*, which probably breeds not much more than 10 km away, has yet to make an appearance, epitomises the enigmatic but alluring nature of birding at the Cape of Good Hope.

Earlier Species Lists

Three bird lists have been compiled for the Reserve. The first was in

1969 by the then warden Ernest Middlemiss. This was updated by Middlemiss in collaboration with Howard Langley, and based mainly on the latter's records (Langley 1971, 1972, 1973a), in 1975. Finally, an updated list was included in the Reserve's annual report for 1983 (Anon 1983a), which increased the species' tally but provided no other information. The previous lists provided more than just a list of names, but details of the date and location of many of the rarer species are lacking. Nevertheless, they are a valuable reference with which the present status of the Reserve's birdlife can, to some extent, be compared, indicating that some species have disappeared altogether, others have become rare, and many have been recorded for the first time. These changes in status can be viewed in a local or regional perspective – are the changes noted at the Reserve reflected in the south-western Cape as a whole, for example, or are changes in the rest of the region also manifested at the Reserve?

The regional (Hockey *et al*. 1989) and first national (Harrison *et al.* 1997) bird atlas projects did not split the Peninsula into its two composite "quarter degree squares" (3418AB and AD) for recording purposes. These squares meet pretty well along the Reserve boundary and the two sections of the Peninsula are relatively distinct geomorphologically and ecologically. Separate atlas recording cards for the northern and southern portions could, therefore, have been very useful in assessing aspects of the Reserve's bird populations in their own right, for management as well as birding interest, and relative to the rest of the Peninsula and the south-western Cape as a whole.

Many birds recorded in the literature of the eighteenth to early twentieth centuries were reported or "obtained" from "The Cape of Good Hope". This does not necessarily mean that they were found at the Reserve; indeed it very rarely did. Rather, it was a geopolitical term used to describe anything from the headland that now holds the name, to the whole of the Peninsula, and to the entire Cape Province in the days when the Cape was visited by numerous naturalists and collectors (Winterbottom 1967, Fraser and Fraser 2011). The Cape of Good Hope *sensu stricto* was officially named as recently as 1957 (Fraser and McMahon 1994).

The Species Accounts

Details of the bird species recorded at the reserve are presented below. Nomenclature follows the BirdLife South Africa official checklist 2013 at: birdlife.org.za/checklists. Red Data List status (Barnes 2000) is given in brackets after the Reserve status.

Reported sightings are taken in good faith. In many cases it is not possible to evaluate the records from the past and they are included here even if some are a bit iffy. Where I have some reservations, I express these, but these are no more than personal opinions and those of birders consulted in the preparation of this account.

Some of the birds reported from the Reserve must, however, be considered doubtful. A few may have been misidentified or, more recently, the description and account of a regionally rare bird has not been accepted by the local or national Rarities Committees that vet unusual sightings. Some of these records have appeared in Reserve archives, on previous lists or in the local birding literature (notably *Promerops*, the venerable magazine of the Cape Bird Club). Although not now considered unequivocal members of the Reserve's avifauna, these few records are included for the sake of historical completeness. They appear in square brackets, being the regrettable fate of any species that finds itself refused membership or unceremoniously dumped off the list.

A number of records of rare birds may not have been submitted to and assessed by the relevant regional rarities committees: BirdLife South Africa (formerly the South African Ornithological Society) Rarities Committee for national rarities, and the Cape Bird Club Rare Birds Committee (established 1994) for regional (south-western Cape) ones. While I have no doubt as to the identity of the majority of these sightings, formal adjudication would be required for their acceptance onto national and regional lists. With this qualification, they are included here for the sake of completeness and historical interest.

Sources (observers or references) of records are provided where known. Those without attribution are mainly my observations (1984-96) or cannot be traced beyond word of mouth. Sources to which reference is frequently made are abbreviated as follows:

ABSC. Atlas of the Birds of the Southwestern Cape (Hockey *et al*. 1989)
ASAB. The Atlas of Southern African Birds (Harrison *et al.* 1997)
CBN. Cape Bird Net http://groups.yahoo.com/group/capebirdnet/
ML. Birds of the Cape of Good Hope Nature Reserve (Middlemiss and Langley 1977)
R7. Roberts 7 (Roberts VII Multimedia Birds of Southern Africa, iPad edition, Version 1. Guy Gibbon)
SARBN. South African Rare Bird News (Trevor Hardaker) https://groups.google.com/forum/?hl=en&fromgroups#!forum/sa-rarebirdnews

Where I describe a species' status in respect of the "south-western Cape", this is the region that falls under the remit of the Cape Bird Club and its bird atlas (Hockey *et al*. 1989). An area of some 55 000km^2, it extends from the Olifants River in the north down to Cape Town and east to Cape Infanta. A diagonal line drawn roughly between the first and last of these locations marks the north-eastern boundary.

"Skaife" is the former SH Skaife Environmental Centre situated on the west coast of the Reserve just south of Olifantsbos, where I lived in 1984-86. Now the "Olifantsbos Guest House", I use the name "Skaife" for convenience and historical reasons. "The Homestead" is the area around the former restaurant, now the Buffelsfontein information centre, at Smith's Farm.

The number of records from Olifantsbos reflects the disproportionate amount of time that I spent there: it was the best birding spot close to Skaife, it was the site of my Coastal Thicket study plot, and I regularly ringed there over 12 years. Had the same effort been devoted to other sites, they may have featured as highly. Certainly there are potentially good sites for local rarities elsewhere, such as the Coastal Thicket and relict forest at Bordjiesrif, and the thicket, marsh and Bulrush patch in the Buffels River Valley. These provide relatively lush refuges in the otherwise generally inimical (to birds) fynbos, and might be expected to attract the odd stray.

And, finally, as is typical of this sort of offering, more often than not the rarer the bird, the longer the account!

The Future

I hope that revisions and updates to this list will be forthcoming as birders respond to this publication. I encourage those living nearby to adopt the Reserve as their dedicated local patch, as I was lucky enough to be able to do, and to investigate the current status and distribution of its birds. (The evergreen thicket and forest patches on both coasts seem to be particularly neglected, but could well pay

dividends to the patient birder, especially in spring and early summer with the chance of overshooting migrants). Sadly, this is not an easy thing for me to do from Scotland, but in addition to scanning the literature and searching web-based reports for collation, I would welcome any unpublished past or future sightings which, based on the species accounts presented here, are significant or interesting in an historical or contemporary context. This would allow future versions of the list to be as accurate and useful as possible. Please contact me via www.thesmallestkingdom.co.uk or send your records direct to: coghbirds@btinternet.com

SYSTEMATIC LIST

OSTRICH FAMILY STRUTHIONIDAE

Common Ostrich *Struthio camelus*

Uncommon breeding resident; probably introduced alien.

Ostrich occurred naturally on the northern Cape Peninsula in the seventeenth century (Raven-Hart 1970), but there are no contemporary records from the area now the Reserve. It is very unlikely that any of the birds here now are directly descended from local wild stock. John McKellar, who owned Buffels Bay in the nineteenth century, apparently ran a thriving Ostrich farm, despite the reported depredations on the chicks of "mongooses" and "jackals". (These were presumably the widespread and common Cape Grey Mongoose *Galerella pulverulenta*, although Water Mongoose *Atilax paludinosus* is present in very small numbers; and possibly Cape Fox *Vulpes chama*, which is recorded very occasionally, but most likely Black-backed Jackal *Canis mesomelas*, which was formerly common on the Peninsula but last recorded on the Reserve near Cape Point in 1939).

Reports of hunting "wild" birds in 1863 (Green 1965) probably refer to McKellar's birds, which essentially were free-ranging. According to Moseley (1892), McKellar had "thrown a wire fence right across the Peninsula, so as to give his ostriches the run of a large tract, stretching right down to the Cape itself". Ostriches present in the early twentieth century were presumably descendants of McKellar's stock. Three males and one female were introduced in 1947, and two males and three females in 1966. By 1976 the population had grown to an estimated 99 birds; in 1995 there were 24-30 and, in 1996, 18 adults and 26 subadults. No introductions now take place and the population is kept in check by translocating chicks and, occasionally, culling adults.

Most often found in disturbed grassy vegetation around habitations, road verges, and in the relatively nutritious coastal strip. Ostrich also frequent newly-burnt fynbos, and at Olifantsbos Bay feed on seaweed freshly cast up on the beach. Nests with eggs (up to 33, the product of more than one female) have been found between June and November. Incubation has been recorded as 53 days, although one stoical female incubated a clutch of 12 addled eggs for 102 days in 1986 before deserting.

Ostrich-eggshell beads dating from the first millennium AD have been found in cave shelters at Smitswinkel Bay (Poggenpoel 1981). It is not known if these originated in the immediate area or were brought in.

TURKEY FAMILY MELEAGRIDIDAE

Common Turkey *Meleagra gallopavo*

Uncommon alien visitor.

Birds from a neighbouring smallholding occasionally stray across the plateau road and into the Reserve. Here they are at risk from a

variety of predators, including Man.

FRANCOLINS, QUAIL AND PEAFOWL FAMILY PHASIANIDAE

Grey-winged Francolin *Scleroptila africanus*

Rare breeding resident.

Although the Reserve's Grey-winged Francolin population appeared at least stable in the 1980s and '90s, for unknown reasons the species is now rare and seen mainly in summer. Occurs in young and rocky fynbos and, unlike Cape Spurfowl (below), generally absent from coastal thicket or alien vegetation. In "Restionaceous Plateau Fynbos and Restionaceous Tussock Marsh" Ryan and Hockey (1995) recorded 0.043 ha^{-1} birds in April 1994. Territorial males calling from exposed rocks in spring and summer, mainly in the early morning, provide one of the most characteristic sounds of the Reserve at these seasons. Breeds in spring to midsummer. Family parties or coveys of up to 16 birds seen on roads and grassy verges.

Cape Spurfowl *Pternistes capensis*

Common breeding resident.

Occurs in small parties (normally 3-4, but up to 17) in gardens and grassland around human habitation and in disturbed areas at the coast, notably Olifantsbos and Buffels Bay. Rarely seen in pure fynbos, but sometimes occurs inland at Sirkelsvlei, foraging on its grassy northern and southern banks.

Common Quail *Coturnix coturnix*

Status uncertain, probably rare visitor; has bred.

A scarce and irregular species, but likely to be detected whenever present by its characteristic call in spring. Recorded as "rare" in "bush on plateaux" by ML, but in 1984-96 seen only in short, generally bushless restioveld, with single birds in September 1985, June 1986 and April 1994. Ryan and Hockey (1995) recorded densities of 0.043 ha^{-1} in "Restionaceous Plateau Fynbos and Restionaceous Tussock Marsh" in April 1994. An adult and a well-grown chick in the Krom Valley in December 1991 (C Nortier) represent the only evidence of breeding.

The status of the southern African population of this widespread species is poorly known but likely to be complex. It may be sedentary, but seasonal influxes are likely to occur in response to local rainfall patterns (R7). In the south-western Cape it is particularly numerous in the wheatlands, and described as a "common resident and summer migrant" in the region as a whole (ABSC).

Barnyard Fowl *Gallus gallus*

Introduced alien; rare localised breeding resident.

A few hens are kept at Klaasjagersberg. They rarely stray far from their coops or the old pastures there, but have been seen foraging in undisturbed fynbos up to 100 m away.

Common Peacock *Pavo cristatus*

Introduced alien; formerly rare localised breeding resident, now extinct.

An ornamental species confined to Klaasjagersberg where birds were introduced in 1940 and 1967. Occasionally nested in natural vegetation near Klaasjagersberg in the 1980s, resulting in a small, almost self-sustaining feral population (and, therefore, arguably tickable). Now extinct.

GUINEAFOWL FAMILY NUMIDIDAE

Helmeted Guineafowl *Numida meleagris*

Uncommon breeding resident.

Birds from the eastern Cape were introduced to the south-western

Cape at the end of the nineteenth century and quickly became established in agricultural areas and coastal scrub (ABSC). Four were released at the Reserve in 1940 and 43 in 1950, but the species would doubtless have made its own way here without this helping hand and, indeed, are likely to have been here already.

Helmeted Guineafowl's distribution is regulated in part by the proximity and availability of tall trees in which to roost, such as the gums at Klaasjagersberg, the oaks (now felled) at Olifantsbos, and the Homestead fig and cypress. Rarely seen in natural vegetation apart from coastal scrub, and mainly confined to human habitation, grassy recreational areas, and to alien thickets as far south as the slopes of Vasco da Gama Peak. Road verges are used as convenient corridors to reach outlying areas, with parties of up to 20 by the Main Road south of the Homestead. Regularly forage on the shore at Olifantsbos Bay, scraping in and turning over rotting kelp to expose sandhoppers and kelp-fly larvae. Breeding recorded in October-December.

DUCKS AND GEESE FAMILY ANATIDAE

Egyptian Goose *Alopochen aegyptiacus*

Common visitor and uncommon breeding resident.

In the 1960s and '70s any sighting of this species was considered unusual (Skead 1966, Middlemiss 1969, ML). In the 1980s a party of 17 at Die Mond in April 1986 was noteworthy. In 1990-91 unprecedented numbers were recorded and the geese have increased ever since. A flock of 35 at Olifantsbos in January 1991 had risen to 60 by May and the species soon became a regular feature of the beach. By mid-1995 a hundred or more were all but permanent here, with many more scattered along the Reserve's coastline, even on the cliffs at Cape Point. A survey of the Reserve coast in summer 2010/11 counted over 300 birds, most on the west coast where flocks gather to moult in areas closed to the public (P Ryan).

Long recognised as the commonest and most widespread large duck in southern Africa (ASAB), the Egyptian Goose's relatively recent arrival at the Reserve parallels that of Sacred Ibis. Both have now extended their ranges to the southwest as far as is physically possible, a knock-on effect of widespread habitat transformation through agriculture, irrigation and urbanisation elsewhere in the Cape and subcontinent as a whole.

The Reserve's Egyptian Geese are of interest because, as a typically freshwater species, they are unusual in the sea. Here, full-grown birds and unfledged youngsters loaf on the rocks, feed on the beaches and swim voluntarily into the surf and beyond to the kelp beds (Fraser and McMahon 1991c, 1994c). Up to 150 forage on the beach at Olifantsbos Bay, eating seaweed and sieving suspended material from shallow kelp-heap pools and, on calm days, the water's edge. About 100 birds grazed alien *Acacia* seedlings in recently burnt marshy areas in the northern part of the Reserve in 1986 (O von Kaschke).

Breeds in old Hamerkop nests and on cliffs. Broods of 5-10 goslings have been recorded in May-December on the west coast.

South African Shelduck *Tadorna cana*

Local vagrant.

Two records of three birds. A pair at Sirkelsvlei in October-November 1972 (Langley 1972) and one at Die Mond in the latter month (ML). Quite common in the south-western Cape and regular in small numbers at a few sites (notably Strandfontein Sewage Works) on the Peninsula.

Spur-winged Goose *Plectropterus gambensis*
Uncommon visitor; has bred.
First recorded in 1960 and now a regular visitor to Sirkelsvlei, Groot Rondevlei and Die Mond; very occasional elsewhere. Flock size generally 1-6; maximum counts are 28 at Die Mond in January 1991 (A Mecinski) and 13 on Sirkelsvlei in July 1985. Bred at Sirkelsvlei in 1973 and near the Link Road in 1974.

Cape Teal *Anas capensis*
Rare visitor; has bred.
ML describe it as "occasional" at Die Mond and Groot Rondevlei. In 1984-94, recorded in singles or pairs on 11 occasions at Die Mond, Olifantsbos and seasonally-flooded dune slacks between these two sites. Five at Die Mond in early 1971 (H Langley) and three at The Fishery in June 1986 are peak counts of adults. Pairs with seven ducklings at The Fishery in September 1984 and with four ducklings in a vlei at Olifantsbos in October 1986 are the only breeding records.

African Black Duck *Anas sparsa*
Rare breeding resident.
One or two pairs appear to be resident and are seen from time to time at Sirkelsvlei, Die Mond and on the Krom River. Occurred in the past on the Homestead pond. One in the sea at Olifantsbos Bay in April 1996 was notable for a freshwater species (Fraser *et al*. 1996). Nesting has been recorded at Klaasjagersberg and Theefontein (ML, H Langley).

Yellow-billed Duck *Anas undulata*
Common visitor and uncommon breeding resident.
Frequents freshwater vleis along the west coast, small streams on the Smitswinkel Flats, and seasonally-inundated marshes anywhere in the Reserve. Small numbers loaf on the west coast beaches, and individuals and family parties occasionally take to the open sea at Olifantsbos Bay on calm days. Most often seen, however, at Die Mond, the ephemeral back-beach pans between there and Menskoppunt, and Groot Rondevlei. ML record 70 at Die Mond; the highest subsequent count is 42 there on 31 January 1991. Adults with ducklings (up to 11) have been recorded in July-December.

Cape Shoveler *Anas clypeata*
Local vagrant.
One record. One at Die Mond on 30 May 1986 (O von Kaschke). Common at shallow freshwater bodies elsewhere on the Peninsula.

Red-billed Teal *Anas erythrorhyncha*
Rare visitor; has bred.
A pair at Die Mond in May 1971 (Langley 1972), three at Olifantsbos Bay in June 1973, and an adult with six or seven young at Sirkelsvlei in December 1984 (O von Kaschke). These are the only records since four were introduced to the Reserve (and disappeared shortly afterwards), on 19 November 1940.

Southern Pochard *Netta erythrophthalma*
Local vagrant.
One record of two birds. A pair at Sirkelsvlei on 30 June 1985 (D Clark). Quite common on deeper, less acidic freshwater bodies north of the Reserve.

BUTTONQUAIL FAMILY TURNICIDAE

Hottentot Buttonquail *Turnix hottentottus*

Status uncertain, probably uncommon visitor and resident; may breed.

ML describe this enigmatic species as "Rare, but occasionally flushed while walking through the veld", an appraisal that still holds. In more recent years it was first recorded in short restioveld near Sirkelsvlei in February 1986. There were no subsequent records (probably a reflection of reduced observer coverage) until one was flushed near Circular Drive on 10 February 1989. In April 1994 birds were again found near Sirkelsvlei, and a flurry of records from here and similar habitat north and south of the vlei emanated from increased visits by birders. Multi-observer transects of the area in April 1994 gave a density of 0.196 birds ha^{-1} in "Restionaceous Plateau Fynbos and Restionaceous Tussock Marsh", with an extrapolated population estimate for the Reserve of 310-480 birds, at a density range of one bird per 50-250 ha likely a consequence of vegetation age (Ryan and Hockey 1995, R7). A second survey in April 1995 indicated a population increase, particularly near Circular Drive, and provided evidence of possible breeding (one flushed bird was thought to be a youngster; P Ryan). On 29 April 1995 one was seen near the junction of the Klaasjagersberg/Olifantsbos roads and one or two have been seen there and by the nearby white-parapet bridge over the Krom River fairly regularly since then at least until 2008. One by the "Sirkelsvlei Loop", presumably Circular Drive, on 8 March 2010 (F Peacock, CBN). Its abundance may have decreased in recent years as the vegetation has become denser following the cessation of regular burns (P Ryan).

HONEYGUIDES FAMILY INDICATORIDAE

Lesser Honeyguide *Indicator minor*

Rare visitor.

Three or four records. A brood parasite of hole-nesting species, including Acacia Pied Barbet, the honeyguide's arrival and subsequent distribution in the south-western Cape matches the colonisation of this region by the barbet (Underhill *et al*. 1995). Lesser Honeyguide was first recorded on the northern Peninsula in the early 1980s but took a further decade to reach the Reserve. Singles (possibly the same bird) were recorded in 1991 at Klaasjagersberg in January and on 18 April, and at Olifantsbos on 16 July (T Oatley). One flying east from the Cape Point car park on an unrecorded date in 1997 (J Graham, G Graham) is the only other record. The disappearance of the Acacia Pied Barbet and its non-native nesting trees will doubtless thwart the colonial aspirations of this honeyguide at the Reserve.

Brown-backed Honeybird *Prodotiscus regulus*

Rare visitor.

One record of two birds. A pair at Klaasjagersberg on 14 February 2010 (J Graham, G Graham). This woodland species is becoming increasingly common in the south-western Cape, having been first recorded in 1986 (ABSC, Martin and Walton 2011). It remains rare on the Peninsula, but has occurred recently at Kirstenbosch (CBN, H Langley) and Clovelly (Barnes 2012). The honeybird has expanded its range in response to alien-tree planting and infestation, especially of riparian habitats.

WOODPECKERS FAMILY PICIDAE

Ground Woodpecker *Geocolaptes olivaceus*

Rare breeding resident and, probably, visitor.

Parties of 2-14 occur in coastal or inland areas wherever there are exposed rocks and outcrops, and particularly in recently-burnt areas. As the vegetation recovers they become less frequent and may not occur at all in mature veld. Numbers of Ground Woodpeckers appear to fluctuate at the Reserve, presumably in response to successional changes in the vegetation, and it became increasingly rare in the 1990s. In 2013, three groups (probably families) had ranges centred at Venus Pool, Rooikrans and Cape Maclear (B Rose). Nesting has been recorded in October.

This is the only woodpecker that has been recorded at the Reserve (Cardinal *Dendropicos fuscescens* and Olive *Mesopicos griseocephalus* occur rarely in woodland elsewhere on the Peninsula) and, appropriately given the treeless nature of the local landscape, it is an exclusively terrestrial species.

BARBETS FAMILY CAPITONIDAE

Acacia Pied Barbet *Lybius leucomelas*

Rare localised breeding resident, possibly extinct.

A bird that has expanded its range since the 1950s into the south-western Cape in the wake of the planting and spread of alien trees and shrubs that provide nest holes and fruit (Macdonald 1986). First recorded at Olifantsbos in January 1970, subsequently becoming resident and quite numerous there and at the Homestead where nest holes were excavated almost exclusively in dead Port Jackson (H Langley), although the Homestead fig and Olifantsbos oaks were subsequently exploited. It was a conspicuous species at Olifantsbos in the 1980s (e.g., eight ringed on 22 August 1984), but disappeared following the clearance of alien vegetation, with the last record there in August 1990. One or two pairs at Klaasjagersberg, but probably now only a rare visitor to other parts of the Reserve, with singles occasionally seen at the Homestead and outlying sites including Booi se Skerm, Vasco da Gama Peak and Cape Point.

HORNBILLS FAMILY BUCEROTIDAE

African Grey Hornbill *Tockus nautus*

Vagrant from further north in South Africa, or escapee.

One record. One below the old lighthouse at Cape Point on 7 December 2002 (M Fair, CBN). Possibly an escapee from captivity, although records at the Reserve of other largely sedentary species of similar provenance lend weight to it being a genuine, if unexpected, vagrant. Found in wooded savanna, thornveld and gardens in northern South Africa where it undertakes some movements in the dry season (ASAB, R7).

HOOPOE FAMILY UPUPIDAE

African Hoopoe *Upupa africana*

Rare visitor; has bred.

First recorded at the Homestead in 1963. Thereafter, ML report that it nested there, at Klaasjagersberg and Olifantsbos, and that it "moved out of the area in the winter months". It subsequently moved out all but entirely, with only the following records in 1984-96: two Perdekloof 3 December 1984; one Klaasjagersberg 5 January, two at the Homestead in February, one Theefontein in May and one Perdekloof in July 1985; one Circular Drive and Buffels Bay in February and Klaasjagersberg in July 1992; one Klaasjagersberg 22 March 1994. One photographed by rock-anglers at Rooikrans in January 2002 (per B Rose) appears to be the most recent record.

SCIMITARBILLS FAMILY RHINOPOMASTIDAE

Greater Scimitarbill *Rhinopomastus cyanomelas*

Vagrant from further north in South Africa.

One record of two birds. Two that flew past Skaife on 17 October 1984 were seen by birders recuperating there after watching the nearby Baird's Sandpiper (that was a memorable day). The scimitarbills were found again shortly afterwards at Olifantsbos where they foraged in the coastal thicket and called briefly. An unusual record of what is very much an up-country species of thornveld and savanna. Not previously recorded in the south-western Cape, and recorded only once since (Scarborough, *ca* 2010; J Graham).

ROLLERS FAMILY CORACIIDAE

European Roller *Coracias garrulus*

Vagrant from Eurasia.

One record. One at Perdekloof on 11 April 1986 was mobbed by an African Marsh-Harrier (Mecinski 1986, O von Kaschke). Probably a reverse migrant, as this is a late date for a bird that should have been heading north to its Palaearctic breeding grounds at this time. A regionally rare species, recorded only once every few years in the south-western Cape, but quite common in woodlands and bushveld further north and east in southern Africa.

KINGFISHERS FAMILIES CERYLIDAE AND ALCEDINIDAE

Pied Kingfisher *Ceryle rudis*

Uncommon visitor, mainly in winter.

Occurs singly or in parties of up to three anywhere along the Reserve's coastline, fishing in rock pools and shallow subtidal water. Regular at Olifantsbos Bay and occasional at freshwater, notably Matroosdam, the Olifantsbos dune vleis, and the lower stretches of the Krom River. Most often seen in winter, with the majority of records coming from April-August; rare in summer. There are some earth banks in which nesting burrows could be excavated, but breeding has not been confirmed.

Giant Kingfisher *Ceryle maxima*

Uncommon, irregular visitor.

Recorded perhaps once or twice a year in singles and (rarely) pairs at the shore and coastal vleis. Seen most often at Olifantsbos, but also at Brightwater, Die Mond and Venus Pool.

Half-collared Kingfisher *Alcedo semitorquata*

Formerly rare visitor. (Near Threatened)

ML give one record (January 1961); Skead (1966) states that it was "Occasional at Die Mond ... where it fishes". Although some reports may have been misidentifications of immature Malachite Kingfisher, Half-collared was historically more numerous in the south-western Cape. Its numbers have since decreased, probably on account of habitat degradation (ABSC) and it has not been recorded on the Peninsula for several decades.

Malachite Kingfisher *Alcedo cristata*

Rare visitor.

In the 1970s there were "Few resident at the mouth of the Hout River" (ML). Skead (1966) records one fishing in an intertidal rock pool near Olifantbos. Three records of single birds in 1984-96: Homestead pond, 23-24 April 1984; mistnetted in alien thicket at Olifantsbos, 18 April 1986; Die Mond, 24 May 1986. It is now occasional at Die Mond and along the Klaasjagers River (H Langley).

Grey-headed Kingfisher *Halycon leucocephala*
Vagrant from subequatorial Africa.
One record. A Grey-headed Kingfisher on the telephone wires near Klaasjagersberg on 15 May 1988 (Graham 1985) was the first record for the south-western Cape. In summer, the species occurs only as far south as the eastern fringe of KwaZulu Natal, then returns north to winter in equatorial Africa. The Reserve bird was presumably a reverse migrant or had overshot its breeding grounds the previous spring. Either way, it was more than 1 000 km out of range.

BEE-EATERS FAMILY MEROPIDAE
White-throated Bee-eater *Merops albicollis*
Vagrant from equatorial Africa.
One record of 6-7 birds. A small party of White-throated Bee-eaters at the "Cape of Good Hope" on 6 March 1998 (N Libenberg, G Libenberg, R7) was the third record for southern Africa, the first being in 1988 in the northern Cape. There have been only six other records in the subcontinent, all in December-April apart from the remarkable discovery of a small breeding colony near Calitzdorp (just to the east of the south-western Cape recording area) in July 2013 (SARBN). Breeds just south of the Sahara during the April-September rains, migrating southward to equatorial rain forest in the non-breeding season.

European Bee-eater *Merops apiaster*
Vagrant.
One record. One south over Sirkelsvlei on 28 April 1985. A very late record of a bird that generally leaves its south-western Cape breeding grounds by February to winter in equatorial Africa (ASAB, Underhill 1990). Alternatively, a reverse migrant from the European-breeding population that winters in southern Africa.

MOUSEBIRDS FAMILY COLIIDAE
Speckled Mousebird *Colius striata*
Formerly common, now uncommon localised breeding resident.
Restricted to coastal thicket and alien vegetation (notably *Acacia cyclops*) where flocks of up to 30 eat buds, shoots, flowers and fruits. Very occasionally visits winter-flowering Protea repens in mountain fynbos to extract nectar. Breeding recorded in October. Becoming less common on the northern Peninsula (P Ryan), a change in status that now appears to be reflected at the Reserve.

White-backed Mousebird *Colius colius*
Rare visitor.
"First noted in 1962 at Olifantsbos" (ML). One found dead between the Homestead and Buffels Bay, with a "group in trees near the rondavel" [at Buffels Bay] in July 1968 (Loide-Abbott 1969). There was a further report (numbers unknown) from this site on 2 February 1986. One mistnetted at Olifantsbos on 31 December 1989 was recaptured there, still on its own, on 12 December 1990. One near the Homestead on 27 April 1996 (C Spottiswoode).

The flock at Buffels Bay stands out as atypical (and questionable) and the species continues to be very rare. Langley (1972) describes it as "Resident, not as common as the Speckled [Mousebird]" implying a resident, or at least more regular visiting population that has since disappeared. Frequent in coastal thicket elsewhere on the Peninsula south to Simon's Town.

Red-faced Mousebird *Colius indicus*
Local vagrant.
One record. A singleton in coastal thicket at Skaife in December 1986. Quite common in suburban gardens in the northern Peninsula

but scarce further south. Typically, and like other mousebirds, a gregarious species; a solitary bird at the Reserve represents a very lost soul.

CUCKOOS FAMILY CUCULIDAE

Red-chested Cuckoo *Cuculus solitarius*

Rare intra-African summer migrant.

Singles at Klaasjagersberg in October 1973 (H Langley), September 1984 (K Foster) and at Wildschutsbrand in October 1985. Also frequents wooded areas just north of the boundary fence and inveigles its way onto the list more by virtue of birds calling outside being heard from within the Reserve. Two were, however, seen in the Reserve during 2011 (CBN) but details are lacking.

Red-chested Cuckoo has almost disappeared from the Peninsula as a whole in recent years. This comes after a regional range expansion in the mid-twentieth century as it tracked its main brood host, Cape Robin-Chat, into gardens and other man-made woodland habitats.

Klaas's Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx klaas*

Rare visitor.

Five records. Singles at Klaasjagersberg on 27 June 1975 (H Langley), in August 1986 and ‘87 (O von Kaschke), and from early September to the end of 1995 (R Ernstzen); and one at the Homestead in September 1994 (B Rose). In the south-western Cape, where it is resident or a summer visitor, Klaas's Cuckoo is found predominantly in wooded parks and gardens; the few Reserve records reflect this habitat choice and it is unlikely to occur anywhere else here.

COUCALS FAMILY CENTROPODIDAE

Burchell's Coucal *Centropus burchellii*

Rare, localised resident; has bred.

Occasionally heard and even less frequently seen in the Bulrush patches at Die Mond, Olifantsbos Bay and Skaife, where probably resident. There is similar habitat at the Homestead pond and the lower reaches of the Buffels River that they might be expected to frequent. Formerly occurred at Klaasjagersberg, but not recorded there since a pair in September 1986. A juvenile at Olifantsbos in late September 1995 (A Mecinski) is the only evidence of breeding.

SWIFTS FAMILY APODIDAE

African Black Swift *Apus barbatus*

Common breeding resident and visitor.

The most common swift at the Reserve, with parties of 10-200 foraging anywhere over the landscape at any time of year. The largest recorded flock (1 500 over coastal thicket at Olifantsbos) coincided with a hatch of flying ants. Often skims low over the beaches and heaps of rotting seaweed to feed upon emergent kelp flies. Nests in the cliffs behind Skaife and is likely to do so at similar sites elsewhere on the Reserve, notably Rooikrans.

White-rumped Swift *Apus caffer*

Uncommon summer visitor.

Small numbers join high-flying flocks of African Black and Alpine Swifts anywhere over the Reserve in summer. A party of eight screaming around Skaife on 24 November 1984 almost entered the building.

Little Swift *Apus affinis*
Uncommon visitor; possibly breeds.
Very small numbers in flocks of feeding swifts anywhere over the Reserve in summer; very rare in winter. Some of the cliffs and buildings may provide suitable nest sites for this species, but breeding has not been confirmed.

Alpine Swift *Tachymarptis melba*
Common visitor; probably breeds.
Second in abundance to African Black Swift. Occurs in mixed feeding flocks anywhere and at any time of year, but most numerous in summer. Breeds in cliff crevices behind Skaife and may do so on other coastal cliffs at the Reserve.

OWLS FAMILIES TYTONIDAE AND STRIGIDAE

Western Barn Owl *Tyto alba*
Rare, localised resident; may breed.
A bird injured on a barbed-wire fence at Klaasjagersberg in May 1991 was one of a pair that had been frequenting the buildings there for some time and may have bred (A Mecinski). Reported periodically from Perdekloof and probably resident there. ML describe it as a resident of "mixed bush including the surrounds of habitation". An unknown number of rehabilitated birds has been released in the Reserve since the early 1970s by a local animal welfare group.

African Wood-Owl *Strix woodfordii*
Rare, localised breeding resident.
A gum-tree nest hole was occupied by successive pairs at Klaasjagersberg from at least 1973 into the '90s. Unlikely to occur elsewhere in the Reserve other than here and at Perdekloof, and probably now absent following the removal of alien trees and thickets.

Marsh Owl *Asio capensis*
Rare visitor or resident; formerly bred.
Langley (1972) describes Marsh Owl as a "Breeding resident" and ML state that it is "Occasionally flushed from marshy areas". Only three records in 1984-96: singles in tussock marsh at the northwest corner of Circular Drive on 3 July 1984, Skaife on 21 August 1986, and Circular Drive on 13 July 1995 (R Ernstzen, A Mecinski). In 2013 there were enough regular sightings on Circular Drive (B Rose, J Graham) to suggest a small resident population.

The western Cape population of Marsh Owl has shown a marked decline in recent years, a consequence primarily of habitat loss to agriculture (ABSC), and is separated from the next nearest population to the east by some 700 km.

[Cape Eagle-Owl *Bubo capensis***]**
Unconfirmed.
A report of a pair on the boundary fence at Scarborough in 1988 has been neither substantiated nor repeated. The habitat is suitable for the species, but it is "rare or absent" on the Peninsula (ABSC)].

Spotted Eagle-Owl *Bubo africanus*
Uncommon but widespread breeding resident.
Poorly known, the few observations indicating that it is thinly distributed in a variety of habitats, ranging from rocky outcrops in inland fynbos to native and alien coastal thicket. Rehabilitated birds (mainly road-traffic victims) have been released in the Reserve since 1973. This is the most widespread owl species in southern Africa. On the Peninsula it is probably more common in urban areas than in the countryside.

Pel's Fishing-Owl *Scotopelia peli*
Vagrant from further north in South Africa. (Vulnerable)
One record. It is appropriate to quote in full Middlemiss's (1969) account of this species' occurrence at the Reserve:

> *"While something more definite than a sight record would be preferable in the case of this species, the bird was identified by the late Dr Leonard Gill. Dr Gill and I had been having tea at the [Homestead] restaurant and as we came out, we hesitated before the building, the owl flew out of the large Ficus tree, swooped in before us and slowly flew up the valley. It returned before the restaurant and then flew down the course of the Buffels River. The sun was behind Dr Gill who had the bird in view for perhaps 30 seconds. The year was 1948 or 1949".*

The date is erroneously given in ML as 1959 and in ABSC as 1953. Gill was director of the South African Museum and author of the first popular book on South African birds (Gill 1936). Pel's Fishing-Owl is a species of riverside forest in tropical Africa south to KwaZulu Natal and, rarely, the eastern Cape. Although an unlikely occurrence and rejected by subsequent authors, the Reserve bird is not so improbable in the light of those species of similar provenance that have since occurred here and elsewhere in the south-western Cape. Most significantly, a Pel's Fishing-Owl was present for almost two months along a forested stream and in gardens in the Cape Town suburb of Newlands in 2012 (Howie 2012), confirming that vagrancy to the Peninsula does occur. On this basis, I am happy to remove the Reserve record from the square brackets in which it has languished for over half a century.

NIGHTJARS FAMILY CAPRIMULGIDAE

[European Nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus***]**
Erroneous record.
A nightjar found dead (road casualty) in the Reserve and reported to be this species (Cape Bird Club 1981) was a Fiery-necked (H Langley). Very rarely reported in the south-western Cape, although the number of road casualties might suggest that it is more common than appreciated (ABSC).

Fiery-necked Nightjar *Caprimulgus pectoralis*
Uncommon breeding resident.
Occasionally flushed from coastal and alien thicket, and is likely to have declined with the clearance of the latter. Breeding has been recorded in November.

[Freckled Nightjar *Caprimulgus tristigma***]**
Unconfirmed local vagrant.
An unconfirmed report of one flushed from a rocky ridge near Sirkelsvlei on 19 August 1995. The species is very rare on the Peninsula (ABSC), although there were sightings from Noordhoek in the 1990s (J Roussouw).

PIGEONS AND DOVES FAMILY COLUMBIDAE

Rock Dove *Columba livia*
Rare alien visitor.
Occasional wayward homing pigeons are seen at or over the Reserve. There are, as yet, no resident "town" pigeons of the sort that are abundant and cosmopolitan in urban and industrial areas.

Speckled Pigeon *Columba guinea*
Common breeding resident and, probably, visitor.
Most typically occurs on sea cliffs and rocky outcrops near the coast and around human habitation. The flocks of 1-15 birds that arrive to forage in newly-burnt areas may have come from outside the Reserve as the species does move to exploit seasonal or novel food sources (ASAB). Nests on cliffs, and on buildings at Klaasjagersberg where it is semi-colonial.

African Olive-Pigeon *Columba arquatrix*
Uncommon localised visitor and rare resident.
Regular only at Klaasjagersberg, where up to 40 congregate at ornamental fruiting olive trees *Olea europea* in winter (G Wright) and 1-2 are occasionally resident for a month or two (A Mecinski, D Mecinska). Elsewhere, seen at the Homestead (pair on 21 April 1973; H Langley) and Olifantsbos, where a pair fed on Milkwood fruits on 20 August 1985.

Red-eyed Dove *Streptopelia semitorquata*
Uncommon visitor and localised resident breeder.
Almost entirely confined to man-modified habitat. Resident breeder in small numbers at Klaasjagersberg and occasional at the Homestead (most recently a pair in 2013; B Rose). Formerly resident in alien *Acacia* and *Eucalyptus* thickets at Theefontein, Olifantsbos and Rooikrans, but rarely recorded following alien clearance. One in two-year-old fynbos on the edge of the Smitswinkel Flats on 7 December 1993 was unusual, but coincided with an influx of Cape Turtle Doves.

Cape Turtle Dove *Streptopelia capicola*
Formerly common, now uncommon resident and visitor.
Displays the widest habitat tolerance of any dove at the Reserve, being found in man-modified and natural habitats. Became increasingly scarce following the removal of alien vegetation in the 1990s and may now perhaps be classified as uncommon here, reflecting a recent wider decline on the Peninsula (P Ryan).

A noticeable influx in the summer of 1993 saw birds occurring in all vegetation types and ages throughout the Reserve. Many also foraged along recently brush-cut road verges (a favoured habitat). Thirty-five in dead alien grasses at Olifantsbos in February 1992 was the biggest flock in 1984-96. One ringed at Olifantsbos in November 1985 was found 32 km north at Kirstenbosch two years later (D Snijman). Breeding recorded in September-January. Despite its geographical moniker, Cape Turtle Dove is the most widely distributed species in southern Africa (ASAB).

Laughing Dove *Streptopelia senegalensis*
Uncommon visitor and localised breeding resident.
Resident in the gardens, gums and pines at Klaasjagersberg and Perdekloof, but rare in natural vegetation. Very occasional in coastal thicket at Olifantsbos. One in 26-month-old fynbos on the escarpment above Skaife on 21 April 1993 was unusual.

Namaqua Dove *Oena capensis*
Uncommon visitor, mainly in summer; one breeding record.
Described in 1969 as "a recent arrival" on the basis of one at Olifantsbos on 14 November 1968 and at Theefontein the next day (ML). Pairs or singles were seen occasionally in summer over the next three years. A pair with two young "just out of the nest" at Gifkommetjie on 30 January 1971 (Langley 1971) constitutes the only breeding record. Two pairs at Olifantsbos in November 1974, and in 1975 it was "resident and often seen sitting on telephone wires" (ML).

At some time after this, the birds disappeared and none was seen again until a single on 18 October 1986. There was a small influx in December that year beginning with one at Olifantsbos on 5th. On 6-7th there were two at Olifantsbos and three at Skaife (Fraser 1987). These birds did not linger and it was three years before there was another influx, albeit limited. On 16 December 1989 there was a female at Olifantsbos, with pairs there and on the southern arm of Circular Drive on 19 December and two pairs at Olifantsbos and a single at Klaasjagersberg on 31 December. Single males were at Circular Drive and Vasco da Gama Peak in January 1990 and a female (which lingered into February) at Olifantsbos. The only records since are a male flying south along the cliffs at the new Cape Point lighthouse on 9 March 1992, a male and two females near Suurdam on 30 August (an unusual date) 1993, a male between Klaasjagersberg and Theefontein on 3 March (R Ernstzen), a female near the Homestead from 31 March (P Ryan) into April 1995, and a pair on the Link Road in April 2013 (J Buchmann). A nomadic species of western coastal lowlands and the arid north, moving in response to post-rains seed availability.

CRANES FAMILY GRUIDAE

Blue Crane *Anthropoides paradiseus*

Rare summer visitor. (Vulnerable)

Recorded in November-December, mainly flying over, but with a few occasionally landing and lingering. The latter include three in ten-month-old veld at the Gifkommetjie/Circular Drive junction from 29 November into December 1991, one bird remaining until 28th (H Langley, C Nortier, Fraser and McMahon 1992a). In 1994, two flew in from the sea at Buffels Bay on 20 November (B Rose), and 14 landed near Suurdam on 29 November (R Ernstzen). Twenty-three flew south over Buffelsfontein on an unrecorded date in 1995 (R Gray, CBN). More recent records are of six at Sirkelsvlei in 2009 (T Rebelo, CBN), and one over Olifantsbos on 27 November 2010 (K Wright, CBN). Two pairs were introduced in July 1940 but soon disappeared.

Although the Reserve records follow a fairly distinct seasonal pattern, the species' movements in the southern Cape (where its population in agricultural areas has increased in recent years) are confusing and not well defined, so it is not clear where the Reserve birds may be coming from or going to. Blue Crane is endemic to southern Africa and is the most range-restricted of the world's crane species.

FLUFFTAILS, GALLINULES, MOORHENS AND COOTS FAMILY RALLIDAE

Striped Flufftail *Sarothura affinis*

Status uncertain, probably rare visitor or resident. (Vulnerable)

One by the Link/Main Road junction on 18 September 1982 (J Graham, P Ryan); at least one pair in short restioveld near Sirkelsvlei in April-August 1985. An enigmatic, secretive species, and difficult to locate other than by call. May undertake irruptive migrations in response to rainfall and post-fire veld condition/age (R7, ABSC) so that in some years they are common at certain sites, such as the Table Mountain plateau, and absent in others. The bird's apparent scarcity at the Reserve and elsewhere in the south-western Cape may also be due to its undemonstrative nature and a lack of birders looking in habitat that is otherwise ornithologically unproductive.

Striped Flufftail has an extremely disjointed distribution in montane areas of eastern and southern South Africa, with the Peninsula and Reserve birds as isolated outliers. The national population is estimated to be about 1 700 birds (R7).

American Purple Gallinule *Porphyrula martinica*
Vagrant from America.
Two records. One "almost adult" bird found moribund at Buffels Bay on 14 June 1967 (Broekhuysen 1971, Silbernagl 1982), and one at an unnamed site on 2 July 1979 (R7). One of the most regular New World species in South Africa. It is thought that young birds leaving their natal areas are caught up in high altitude jetstreams over the Brazilian coast and are blown out over the Atlantic. The lucky ones among these somehow make landfall at the tiny, mid-oceanic Tristan da Cunha islands (where up to 40 have occurred in one year), or 2 800 km further east at the Cape. The majority (20+) of South African records are from the Cape Peninsula, so it is likely that others at the Reserve have gone undetected. There has, however, been a dearth of records in both South Africa and Tristan in recent years, despite increasing observer coverage. This may be a consequence of changes in the species' breeding range in eastern South America (P Ryan).

Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*
Rare visitor; has bred.
One at the Homestead pond sometime before 1969. Records in 1984-96 come only from the west coast at Olifantsbos (one in June 1986), Groot Rondevlei (one in October 1985), and Die Mond where a pair and one chick were seen in April 1985. The latter is the only confirmed breeding record for the Reserve; the youngster was last seen in May, the adults remained all year. Other Die Mond records are pairs in April-June 1986 and April 1987, and an adult in January 1994.

Red-knobbed Coot *Fulica cristata*
Rare visitor.
ML describe it as "Rare. A few confined to Die Mond". Remains a real Reserve rarity despite its abundance elsewhere on the Peninsula. Pairs at Die Mond in early 1971 (Langley 1971) and from 24 April-August 1986, and at Groot Rondevlei on 2 October 1984. One at the latter site on 28 September 1994.

SANDPIPERS, SNIPES, STINTS, GODWITS, CURLEWS AND PHALAROPES FAMILY SCOLOPACIDAE

African Snipe *Gallinago nigripennis*
Uncommon visitor; has probably bred.
In the early 1980s, African Snipe was "regular" at the small wetland near Skaife (P Ryan). Apart from two sightings from the tiny ephemeral lagoon at Olifantsbos Bay in October 1985 and January 1994, all records have been from marshy areas in young, restio-dominated inland fynbos. Usually occurs singly, but three pairs flushed between Teeberg and Perdekloof in September 1986 (D Clark). The area had been burnt the previous January and the birds may have arrived in winter to exploit this open, marshy area. Suspected of nesting at Brightwater in 1972 (Langley 1972) and is likely to do so occasionally in suitable habitat elsewhere in the Reserve. Has become increasingly rare elsewhere in the southern Peninsula in recent years (P Ryan).

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*
Rare Eurasian summer migrant.
Five records of *ca* 10 birds. One at The Fishery on 9 January 1973; three at Die Mond on 16 November 1985 and two there from 17 November to 5 December. Three at The Fishery and, later, Olifantsbos Bay on 28 September 1994. One near the wreck of the *Nolloth* on 2 December 2012 (T Hardaker, H Langley). An uncommon migrant visitor to the south-western Cape, with most of the local population concentrated at Langebaan Lagoon.

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*
Uncommon Eurasian summer migrant; rare in winter.
Parties of 2-10 regular on the rocky west coast, particularly at Menskoppunt; very rare on sandy beaches. The biggest flocks have been 37 just south of Schuster's Bay on 19 January, 33 at Olifantsbos Bay on 10 December 1986, and 15 there on 22 April 2013 remaining into the winter (H Langley). Apart from the latter birds, winter numbers are much lower than summer, usually 0-6 and with maxima of seven at The Fishery on 18 June 1984, and 10 at Menskoppunt on 28 May 1995 (C Cohen, D Winter).

Eurasian Curlew *Numenius arquata*
Rare Eurasian summer migrant.
According to ML "odd birds usually present especially in the Olifantsbos area". This is a more appropriate description of Whimbrel, which ML describe as "not common but one or two birds usually seen … near Hout River estuary [Die Mond]". Curlew was recorded only twice in 1984-96: one flying past Skaife on 30 September and two at Die Mond on 16 October 1985. The only other Reserve record is of one at Olifantsbos Bay on 8 December 2011 (P Ryan). Rare on the Peninsula as a whole.

Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatalis*
Rare Eurasian summer migrant.
Langley (1972) notes "small flocks occasionally seen at Sirkelsvlei and Die Mond". The only record since at least 1984 is of a single bird at Die Mond in January 1991.

Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*
Uncommon Eurasian summer visitor and passage migrant; rare in winter.
Found on rocky and, occasionally, gently-sloping sandy beaches, at the Die Mond lagoon and back-beach pans, and infrequently at freshwater (1-2 at Sirkelsvlei but a flock of 39 at Klein Rondevlei on 25 October 1986). Up to three have over-wintered; returning birds are noted from late August. Numbers are greatest in late summer (highest count 64 at Die Mond on 7 February 1984), perhaps representing birds on passage. ML record 120 at Olifantbos Bay without giving a date.

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*
Rare Eurasian summer migrant.
ML state that it was seen occasionally at Die Mond. Although the muddy margins on the lower reaches of the Krom River at this site would appear to be suitable habitat for this freshwater wader, there have been no subsequent records.

Common Sandpiper *Tringa hypoleucos*
Uncommon Eurasian summer migrant.
Occurs singly or, rarely, 2-4 in a loose group, anywhere on rocky shore or at the muddy margins of the Krom River estuary at Die Mond. Recorded only three times at Sirkelsvlei despite the fact that freshwater is generally its preferred habitat. The earliest spring record is 6 August 1984, the latest autumn one 14 March 1985.

Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*
Formerly common, now uncommon summer visitor and passage migrant from northern hemisphere; rare in winter.
In 1984-96, commonly found on the rocky west coast and on sandy beaches where heaps of seaweed have been deposited. Rare on the False Bay coast. Birds arrive in mid-September, the majority leaving by late April and the first week in May, by which time many are in full nuptial plumage. Numbers vary from year to year in the summer months, but parties of 2-40 are generally in residence over this

period. Peak numbers occur during autumn passage (55 at Olifantsbos Bay on 14 April 1986 is the highest count). Small numbers of non-breeding birds (maximum of 26 at Olifantsbos Bay) remain for the winter. As with other migrant waders, Ruddy Turnstone has become rare at the Reserve, reflecting a wider population decline or shift in the region (Ryan 2012).

Red Knot *Calidris canutus*

Rare Eurasian summer migrant.

Uncommon on the Peninsula as a whole and recorded at Reserve only at The Fishery (one on 6 December 1984), Olifantsbos Point (seven on 21 April 1984) and Olifantsbos Bay (two on 22 November 1984 and 16 November-29 December 1985, one in December 2012 [H Langley]). A high-Arctic breeder and long-distance migrant, the Siberian population winters in Africa south to the Cape.

Sanderling *Calidris alba*

Formerly common, now uncommon summer visitor and passage migrant from northern hemisphere.

Now rare (as with Ruddy Turnstone and Curlew Sandpiper), this wader was formerly a characteristic coastal species in summer although its abundance varied from year to year. Highest numbers were of migrating birds pausing to refuel, crowding into small areas of beach to feed on emerging kelp-fly maggots. Prefers open sandy beaches, but will forage amongst rotting kelp and on the rocks at Olifantsbos Bay. Roosts on rocks anywhere along the coastline or on ephemeral islands in the Die Mond lagoon.

Sanderling arrive in early September (first returning birds on 11th) and leave in April (latest record 26th). Between these times their numbers vary greatly. Flocks of up to 180 spend the whole summer at the Reserve, but there are distinct seasonal "humps" in abundance, with peaks in late spring (highest count 220 at The Fishery on 1 November 1984) and autumn (maximum 420 on 12 April 1985) presumably representing passage birds. Many birds in March and April are in virtually full breeding plumage and those caught for ringing are relatively very heavy, typical of birds journeying north to their Arctic breeding grounds.

Little Stint *Calidris minuta*

Rare Eurasian summer visitor and passage migrant.

"Occasional flocks or single birds" recorded at Die Mond by ML. The largest flock was 25 in March 1971 (H Langley). Very few subsequent records: one with Sanderling in Mast Bay on 22 November 1984; in 1985 a single at The Fishery on 7 October, two there on 10 October, single at Olifantsbos Bay from 27 October to 15 November; 10 at Olifantsbos Bay on 1 November 1991; single at Die Mond on 9 November 1993. Breeds in northern Europe and Siberia, wintering in Africa south to the Cape.

Baird's Sandpiper *Calidris bairdii*

Nearctic vagrant.

One record. One at Olifantsbos Point on 16 October 1984 in the wake of a north-westerly gale (Fraser *et al.* 1984, Sinclair and Rarities Committee 1986). The bird was a bit skittish and remained only until the 18th, when it was present in the morning and gone by the evening. This was the first record for South Africa and the second for Africa, the first for the continent being shot at Walvis Bay, Namibia, in 1863 (ABSC). Baird's Sandpiper has much the same distribution and migratory routes as White-rumped (below), but is a less frequent trans-Atlantic traveller.

White-rumped Sandpiper *Calidris fuscicollis*
Nearctic vagrant.
One or two records. One by the wreck of the *Thomas T Tucker* at Olifantsbos Point on 26-28 September 1984. Found after a north-westerly gale, 150 m from where the Baird's Sandpiper (above) subsequently occurred. Another or the same bird there briefly with Sanderling on 5 October (Fraser *et al.* 1984, Sinclair and Rarities Committee 1986).

This represented the fifth South African record of this Nearctic wader (Hockey *et al.* 1986) that breeds in the tundra of Alaska and Canada. Birds are occasionally blown across the Atlantic to northern Europe while on migration to south and east South America. It is also wind-drifted in small numbers to Tristan da Cunha (Fraser 1984d, Ryan 2007). Its former apparent rarity in South Africa may be attributable to a paucity of observers and the bird secreting itself amongst flocks of other similar waders, notably Curlew Sandpiper. There have been 20 records since, but the first twitchable bird after the Reserve individual was not until 2000 when one spent February-March at the Velddrif saltworks (T Hardaker, SARBN).

Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos*
Vagrant from Nearctic or Siberia.
Two records of three birds. One at Menskoppunt on 11-19 October 1992 after a north-westerly storm. It foraged amongst beached kelp or on bare sand at the tide's edge, an unusual habitat for a freshwater wader (Fraser and McMahon 1992, Hockey and Rarities Committee 1995). Two together at the same site on 8 December 2011 (P Ryan, Hardaker 2012).

Breeds in the tundra of northern Siberia, Alaska and Canada, the majority of birds wintering in South America. Given the circumstances of its arrival, the first Reserve bird, at least, was almost certainly American in origin. It is the most frequently-recorded American wader in southern Africa, with over 100 records (R7, SARBN) but still a respectable rarity. A recent increase in regional records may relate to Siberian birds now making the subcontinent their wintering area of choice, rather than arriving here accidentally.

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*
Formerly common, now uncommon Eurasian summer visitor and passage migrant.
Currently very rare compared to the 1980s-90s when small flocks were generally present from spring to autumn along rocky and mixed shores on the west coast. The earliest returning birds are two on 14 September 1985 and the latest (10) on 25 March 1986. The only winter record is of two at The Fishery in June 1986. Summer numbers varied - in some years none were present (Fraser and McMahon 1992a), while in others flocks were regular at Olifantsbos Bay and Die Mond, with smaller numbers elsewhere on the west coast. December 1985 saw the largest summering flocks, with up to 250 at Die Mond. The highest counts are 500, including many assuming nuptial plumage, at Die Mond on 18 February, and 400 at Olifantsbos on 27 February 1986. Birds ringed at Kommetjie (10 km north) and Paarden Island (45 km north) have been found at Die Mond.

Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*
Rare Eurasian summer migrant.
One record. Single at Olifantsbos Bay on 26 October 1985. The species is fairly common at freshwater margins on the northern Peninsula and has increased in the region in resonse to the development of artificial agricultural wetlands and irrigation (ABSC). The lack of birds, even in passing, at the Reserve is surprising.

Red Phalarope *Phalaropus fulicarius*
Rare summer migrant from northern hemisphere.
One record of four birds. Four flew past Rooikrans during a south-easterly gale in March 1988 (B Rose). This pelagic wader probably occurs more often at the Reserve (and elsewhere in the south-western Cape) under these conditions than this one record would suggest.

PAINTED-SNIPES FAMILY ROSTRATULIDAE
Greater Painted-snipe *Rostratula benghalensis*
Rare visitor. (Near Threatened)
Reported from Groot Rondevlei by ML, sometime before 1969 without further details. There have been no subsequent records of this generally secretive species. Destruction and modification of waterbodies has rendered Greater Painted-snipe extremely rare elsewhere on the Peninsula (ABSC). The isolated south-western Cape population as a whole may number less than 200 birds and be in imminent danger of extinction (ASAB, R7). Future occurrences of the species at the Reserve are thus becoming increasingly unlikely.

SHEATHBILLS FAMILY CHIONIDIDAE
Greater Sheathbill *Chionis alba*
Vagrant from southern ocean islands and Antarctic, probably ship-assisted.
Five or six records. Singles at the Cape of Good Hope from 25 June-14 August 1988 (Richardson 1988, J Graham), 25 June 1994 (P Ryan), and 4 June 2002 that "stayed for a number of days" (Wright 2002). A flypast at Cape Point on 18 July 2002 (B Rose) was presumably the latter individual. The first two birds foraged amongst roosting cormorants on the rocks just off the car park and amongst old cormorant nests and guano on the cliff ledges of Cape Maclear. One at Castle Rock just north of the Reserve boundary on 12 July 2000 was seen to fly "further south to the last grey offshore rock in the area, 2 km from Castle Rock"(CBN). This would take it into the Reserve. This bird then relocated to Boulders Beach, 15 km to the north, and remained there until 26 September apart from a visit to Kalk Bay on 3 September.

Greater Sheathbill is migratory, leaving its breeding grounds on the Antarctic Peninsula in autumn for islands to the north. Although the Reserve birds and others observed in the Cape Town area may be genuine vagrants, they typically arrived shortly after the closing of the Falkland Islands' fishing season. White or albinistic birds are considered to be bringers of good luck in the Far East and the sheathbills are taken aboard Taiwanese and other Oriental fishing vessels working around the islands in response to this belief (B Rose). The birds are then released or fly off when the vessels come in sight of land at the Cape. The lack of records in the last decade coincides with the collapse of the Falklands squid fishery and consequent reduction in fishing vessels passing the Cape, strongly indicating that the sheathbills reaching here were ship-assisted (P Ryan).

THICK-KNEES FAMILY BURHINIDAE
Water Thick-knee *Burhinus vermiculatus*
Rare visitor.
Three records of seven birds. One at Die Mond in June 1970 (ML), a "pair passing thru dunes" near Skaife in early April 1980 (Brooke and Rebelo 1980), and five resident on the rocky shore at Olifantsbos Bay from late 2012 into winter 2013 (H Langley, B Rose). Occurs at freshwater elsewhere on the Peninsula, but rarely found on the seashore (ABSC).

Spotted Thick-knee *Burhinus capensis*
Uncommon breeding resident.
Found on generally level ground in young or sparsely-vegetated inland fynbos, in coastal dunes, and on beaches just above the high water mark. Typically found in pairs, but 13 on recently burnt veld near Die Mond on 23 December 1984. Nests with eggs have been recorded in September-January. Clutches are sometimes destroyed by Chacma Baboons *Papio ursinus*.

OYSTERCATCHERS FAMILY HAEMATOPIDAE
African Black Oystercatcher *Haematopus moquini*
Uncommon breeding resident and visitor. (Near Threatened)
Prefers mixed rocky and sandy beaches, but nests only on the latter. The Reserve population was formerly constant at around 100 birds. In 1975 there were 106 birds on the west coast, 96 in 1983 (Hockey 1983) and 103 (comprising 41 pairs and 21 singles) in 1985. A survey in 1993 gave a west-coast population of 101 birds at a density of 0.3-7.9 birds km^{-1}, with one pair at Buffels Bay (McKay 1993). The highest density was invariably recorded in the sanctuary area between Die Mond and Olifantsbos Bay. The consistent size of the population and the carrying capacity of the habitat here are demonstrated by the fact that there were 26 birds on this stretch in 1959 and 27 in 1975.

By 2010, however, the Reserve's west-coast population had risen to 250 birds, with four pairs on the False Bay coast (P Ryan). This reflects an increase in the species' overall population from 4 800 in the early 1980s to more than 6 000 today, due in part to increased food availability and breeding success arising from the invasion of the rocky intertidal by non-native Mediterranean Mussels *Mytilus galloprovincialis* (R7, Ryan 2012). African Black Oystercatcher is endemic to southern Africa, with 75% of its population found in South Africa.

Nests with eggs have been recorded from October-April, and unfledged young from January-May. Breeding success is extremely low and many of those clutches that are not eaten by predators are washed over by high tides or buried by windblown sand. A survey of nests from Die Mond to The Fishery in the summer of 1973-74 (Langley 1974) found that 38 of 40 eggs were lost. The most important predator was Water Mongoose, which took 22 eggs. Other causes of nesting failure were high tide (3 eggs), Chacma Baboons (2) and humans (2). Nine eggs were lost to unknown causes. Birds laid up to three replacement clutches at intervals of 7-41 days.

Although the Reserve's breeding population is likely to be resident, its numbers are augmented or replaced by birds from outside the Reserve, as evidenced by colour-ringed individuals from the Langebaan Lagoon islands seen at Bordjiesrif in 1985 and Olifantsbos Bay in 1991. In the non-breeding season, roosts comprise up to 40 birds.

AVOCETS AND STILTS FAMILY RECURVIROSTRIDAE
Pied Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*
Common visitor; present all year.
Feeds in the swash zone and intertidal of the west-coast sandy beaches and in the Die Mond lagoon and nearby back-beach pans. Between 1984 and 1990 Avocet flocks were generally small, averaging 15 birds with a maximum of 76. Since then, numbers have increased, especially in summer, with the highest counts from Die Mond of 282 on 31 January 1994, and 130 near the Cape of Good Hope on 23 December 2010 (P Ryan). There are freshwater records from Sirkelsvlei (2-6 birds in June 1985) and Groot Rondevlei (one in June 1986).

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*
Uncommon visitor.
Stilts largely depend upon the state of the Die Mond lagoon, visiting it when it is full and has "matured" for some weeks. Records from this site are: 12 on 31 May, 22 from 2-4 June, 33 on 5 June 1985; singles on 7 December 1986 and 16 April 1987; three in March 1987; two on 24 February 1991, 31 January 1994, and 28 May 1995. One at a back-beach pan at The Fishery on 9 December 1986. Stilts have apparently been seen once at Sirkelsvlei, and somewhere inland on the Reserve in September 1978, but details are not available.

PLOVERS FAMILY CHARADRIIDAE

American Golden Plover *Pluvialis dominica*
Nearctic vagrant.
Two records. One at Menskoppunt with Grey Plovers on 23 January 1992 frequented rocky intertidal outcrops here and at The Fishery until 16 February (Fraser *et al.* 1992, Hockey and Rarities Committee 1995). One at Menskoppunt from 24 to at least 27 December 2010 (P Ryan, Hardaker 2011). This and the Pacific Golden Plover *Pluvialis fulva* were formerly considered to represent a single species, the Lesser Golden Plover. The 1992 Reserve bird represented only the second southern African record of a "Lesser" specifically identified as an American. There have been 33 subsequent southern African records (R7). The species breeds in the Arctic tundra from Alaska east to Baffin Island and migrates south to winter in central South America.

Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*
Uncommon summer visitor from northern hemisphere.
Occurs in small numbers (1-11) almost exclusively on west-coast rocky shores, notably at The Fishery. The earliest returning bird was on 5 August 1985; the latest autumn birds were four at Olifantsbos Point on 23 April 1986.

Common Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*
Uncommon summer visitor and passage migrant from northern hemi-sphere.
Singles and small parties (generally less than 10 birds) on the rocky western coastline in summer, the highest numbers between Olifantsbos Bay and Menskoppunt. A flock of 21 was at the latter site on 23 January 1992. Numbers at Olifantsbos Bay are now typically 25-35, and represent the largest concentration on the Peninsula (P Ryan). The earliest returning bird was near Brightwater on 17 August 1985; the majority arrive in late September and early October. The latest autumn record is one at Die Mond on 24 April 1990.

Kittlitz's Plover *Charadrius pecuarius*
Common localised breeding resident and visitor.
Formerly very scarce (1-2 records a year) but increased in the mid 1980s at its Olifantsbos Bay stronghold where up to 36 have occurred and breeding has been recorded in March-October. Elsewhere, seen only at The Fishery and Platboom, although likely to occur in suitable habitat (gently sloping, broad sandy beaches with some rocks and plenty of rotting seaweed) at other spots along the coast. ML record it from Olifantsbos, Die Mond and Sirkelsvlei (where it bred in October 1972 and 1-2 are still occasionally seen).

Three-banded Plover *Charadrius tricollaris*
Uncommon localised breeding resident and visitor.
Up to 12 regular at Olifantsbos Bay, feeding at the stream mouth and ephemeral muddy lagoon. Rare elsewhere: the odd bird at The Fishery, Olifantsbos Point, and Sirkelsvlei, where up to four have occurred and where a bird ringed at Olifantsbos was subsequently

resighted. Two in damp, recently-burnt fynbos by the Link Road in September 1986, represent the only inland record other than Sirkelsvlei, although it might be expected to occur at other freshwater bodies in the Reserve.

Chestnut-banded Plover *Charadrius pallidus*
Local vagrant. (Near Threatened)
One record of two birds. Two at Die Mond in September 1993 (J Roussouw, S Cooper, T Boucher). Rare on the Peninsula, and typically restricted to saline pans.

White-fronted Plover *Charadrius marginatus*
Common breeding resident.
Most common on sandy beaches, but not averse to a rock/sand mix. A roost at Die Mond held 442 birds on 5 August 1984, and 100-200 birds are regular there when birds aggregate at beach-pan roost sites. There were 650 birds on the 1 km stretch of beach between Die Mond and The Fishery on 28 September 1994. These figures apparently represent the highest concentrations of the species in southern Africa. Mid-summer counts during the breeding season have, however, decreased by more than 40% since the 1980s (Ryan 2012). A leucistic bird paired with a normal-plumaged one at Platboom in August 2003 (A Welz, B Rose).

Nests with eggs (1-2) are recorded in August-March. A study by Baudains and Lloyd (2007) found that 81% of nests in the Die Mond sanctuary area were lost to predators in 2005. Baboons accounted for 50% of these, Cape Grey and Water Mongoose 17.9%, and Pied Crow and White-necked Raven 32.1%. Tidal flooding destroyed 6% of nests there, and burial by wind-blown sand 11%. The level of nest predation at Die Mond was, ironically, substantially higher than on a nearby beach outwith the Reserve that received large numbers of visitors and their dogs. This was attributed to there being fewer predators, particularly Baboons, where people are present, although some clutches were accidentally trampled and chicks eaten by dogs. Nevertheless, the Die Mond sanctuary does maintain a system that much more closely equates a natural one, and it remains an important area for roosting birds.

Blacksmith Lapwing *Vanellus armatus*
Uncommon breeding resident and visitor.
Having been recorded only once south of the Orange River by the beginning of the twentieth century (ASAB), Blacksmith Lapwing reached the south-western Cape in 1939 (ABSC). It took a further 35 years, however, to make it to the Reserve, with the first record not until 18 February 1972. Subsequent sightings were not recorded, but it presumably became established between then and 1984 when it was found to be resident in suitable habitat along the coast, on the well-watered lawns at Buffels Bay and, occasionally, inland, especially after fire. Typically occurs in pairs or small groups; 12 on the beach between Olifantsbos Bay and Die Mond on 26 April 1985 is a peak count. Like Crowned Lapwing (below), quick to exploit freshly-burnt veld, but restricted to marshy ground. Nests in July-September in short grass and young, damp fynbos near seasonal pans and on the lawns at Buffels Bay.

Crowned Lapwing *Vanellus coronatus*
Uncommon visitor; breeds when conditions are suitable.
An opportunistic species, moving into open, level areas of fynbos immediately after fire. The highest counts were from marshy restioveld (e.g., 16 in 18-month-old veld on Circular Drive on 5 June 1985). Numbers fall generally as the vegetation recovers and the birds may be absent from the Reserve during long fire intervals. Very occasionally seen on the seashore. Rare in recent years, reflecting a

broader decline on the Peninsula (H Langley), where it was formerly quite common on dry, short suburban grasslands such as playing fields. Breeding recorded in June-October, typically in areas burnt the preceding autumn.

COURSERS FAMILY GLAREOLIDAE

Temminck's Courser *Cursorius temmincki*

Vagrant from further north in Africa.

Three records. ML report single birds in recently burnt veld in March 1970 and at Brightwater in October 1973. One just inland from Olifantsbos Bay on 1 Dec 2012 (SARBN). Typically found in bushveld and savanna in the north-eastern part of the country, these were well out of their range. Although there is some some evidence of seasonal movements elsewhere in southern Africa (ASAB), the Reserve records do not fit any pattern. There have only been three other sightings in the south-western Cape (ABSC).

SKUAS, GULLS AND TERNS FAMILY LARIDAE

Subantarctic Skua *Stercorarius antarcticus*

Common winter visitor from subantarctic; rare in summer.

Present in small numbers offshore throughout the winter with up to 10 or so seen in a morning's seawatch. Seabird feeding frenzies on either side of the Peninsula generally have two or three Subantarctic Skuas in attendance, and fishing boats working beneath the Point attract them (11 at one vessel on 20 May 1995 is a peak count; J Graham). Also attracted to frenzies in summer, although rare in this season. Three "inland" records: one spent about a week on a firebreak near Platboom in November 1973 (ML); one circled over rocky fynbos east of Olifantsbos Point on 17 August 1985 (Fraser and McMahon 1985b); one flying over fynbos at the Gifkommetjie/Circular Drive junction on 11 June 1995 (H Langley). The second of these was mobbed by White-necked Ravens and Rock Martins. Very rarely seen ashore in southern Africa (Ryan 1986).

Pomarine Jaeger *Stercorarius pomarinus*

Uncommon summer visitor and passage migrant from northern hemi-sphere.

Distribution and occurrence match that of Arctic Skua (below), but in very much lower numbers (although probably under-recorded). One on 2 June 2013 (J Graham, B Rose) was an unusual winter record. This hefty skua pursues terns and larger seabirds such as Cape Gannets in feeding frenzies in False Bay.

Arctic Jaeger *Stercorarius parasiticus*

Common summer visitor and passage migrant from northern hemisphere; occasional in winter.

Occurs off both coasts between August and May, but chiefly in midsummer and autumn when packs of 20 or more follow fishing terns. Numbers rise in February-March as the numbers of northward-bound terns build up. The majority of skuas leave by the end of April; a few occur in the winter months. Subadults seen ashore twice: on the sandy beach near Die Mond on 14 February 1992, and on rocks at Olifantsbos Point on 8 January 1993.

Arctic Skuas are most often seen as distant dark dots chasing distant white dots as they attempt to steal food from terns. This kleptoparasitism is a singleminded occupation, to the extent that one Arctic Skua pursued a Sandwich Tern 2 m above the ground and directly between two people standing 3 m apart on the beach at Skaife.

Long-tailed Jaeger *Stercorarius longicaudus*
Rare passage migrant from northern hemisphere.
One off Olifantsbos on 11 March 1985 was the first Reserve record. Singles or small numbers have since been recorded at least five times in autumn from the seawatching sites at the tip of the Reserve and off Buffels Bay with Arctic and Pomarine Skuas or in single-species groups during south-easterly gales in April/May. The latest was one off Dias Beach on 2 June 2013 (J Graham, B Rose). Observations from further north on the Peninsula have shown it to be regular in small numbers in False Bay under windy conditions in January-April (Fraser and McMahon 1995a).

Kelp Gull *Larus dominicanus*
Rare breeder and abundant visitor; present all year.
Although small numbers are likely to nest every year, it was not until 1995 that breeding was confirmed. In late September birds were seen carrying nest material around the Cape of Good Hope. In November, 13 nests with eggs were counted on a broad ledge below the new lighthouse (R Ernstzen). Small numbers also now nest annually on the cliffs at Rooikrans (B Rose), and in some years in the coastal dunes in the Die Mond sanctuary area. Non-breeding birds occur all year along the entire coast, are numerous offshore, and often fly inland over the Peninsula. Roosts of up to 600 recorded at Die Mond, Mast Bay and Buffels Bay. At Olifantsbos Bay the gulls forage amongst the seaweed heaps for kelp-fly larvae and pupae, the latter being found in 93% of regurgitated pellets (Steele 1992). They also feed offshore in association with Cape Fur Seals *Arctocephalus pusillus*.

A Kelp Gull showing the characters of the nominate form was at Bordjiesrif in June 2006 (CBN).

[Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus***]**
Unconfirmed Palaearctic vagrant.
A second-year gull tentatively identified as this species was seen at Olifantsbos Bay on 10 January 2010 (J Johnson, CBN). Rare in South Africa as a whole, and not yet recorded in the south-western Cape.

Grey-headed Gull *Larus cirrocephalus*
Uncommon visitor.
Present in small numbers (generally 1-2) in all months of the year anywhere on the coast, almost invariably in flocks of Hartlaub's Gulls. Possibly under-recorded, as it is more in common in the south-western Cape than its status at the Reserve would indicate.

Hartlaub's Gull *Larus hartlaubii*
Abundant visitor; present all year.
Forages on all the beaches and scavenges scraps at picnic sites and car parks. Flocks of up to 400 gather at favoured feeding sites, notably Olifantsbos Bay where they forage on heaps of stranded kelp and, on calm days, while swimming at the tide's edge. Their diet here comprises largely sandhoppers (83% of regurgitated pellets contained their remains; Steele 1992). The nearest breeding colony is at Robben Island in Table Bay.

Franklin's Gull *Larus pipixcan*
Vagrant from Nearctic.
One record. An adult in full-breeding plumage at an unspecified location in the Reserve on 6 May 2007 (I Sinclair, Hardaker 2007, R7). What was thought to be the same bird was on Seal Island in False Bay on 18 May. An almost annual vagrant to Namibia and western South Africa since the 1990s, with south-west Cape records

concentrated at Strandfontein Sewage Works.

Sabine's Gull *Larus sabini*
Common summer visitor and passage migrant from northern hemisphere.
Singles or flocks of up to 250 occur off the west coast under almost any weather conditions and in False Bay when the southeaster is blowing. Most numerous in February-April and usually associated with movements of other seabirds, notably other boreal-breeding species. Rarely approaches within a kilometre of land except under very windy conditions (Ryan 1986). On 24 and 30 December 1985 an immature fed with Hartlaub's Gulls on sandhoppers washed off the beach into the surf a few metres from the shore at Olifantsbos Point.

Caspian Tern *Hydroprogne caspia*
Uncommon visitor. (Near Threatened)
Occasional just offshore or loafing on the beach in ones and twos anywhere along the coast at any time of year. Up to three birds have been recorded in mixed tern roosts, most often at Die Mond.

Lesser Crested Tern *Sterna bengalensis*
Vagrant from north-eastern South Africa and beyond.
One record. One in a mixed tern roost at Buffels Bay in March 1982 was the second record for the south-western Cape (J Graham). A report from the Reserve in Birds of the southwest Cape (Cape Bird Club 1981) is in error.

Swift Tern *Sterna bergii*
Abundant visitor; present all year.
Most common in mid-summer and autumn with roosts of up to 2 400 birds at Buffels Bay, Bordjiesdrif, and at many west coast sites. Birds often display over and sometimes mate in these gatherings. Post-breeding roosts often include adults still feeding their fledgling young. The western Cape breeding population has tripled to some 15 000 pairs in the last 20 years, the nearest breeding grounds to the Reserve being at Dyer, Robben and Dassen Islands, and islands in Saldanha Bay. Colour-ringed birds from the latter site are frequently recorded; a bird ringed on Marcus Island in 1979 and seen in the Buffels Bay tern roost on 20 May 1995 was, at the time, the oldest on record (J Cooper, C Spottiswoode).

Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis*
Abundant summer visitor and passage migrant from Eurasia; rare in winter.
Found anywhere along the coast or just offshore. One inland at Sirkelsvlei on 28 January 1994 (R Ernstzen) was unusual. Arrives in early September, with the main influx in October. Roosts of up to 200, often with other terns, are regular in midsummer. By February and March these increase to 1 000 birds or more. Northward passage off the west coast is heaviest in March and April and the majority of birds have departed by early May. One or two overwintering birds have been recorded in July and August.

Colour-ringed Sandwich Terns from northern European study colonies are occasionally seen at the Reserve. So many have been colour-ringed, however, that it is virtually impossible to track down their exact origins. One found sick at Buffels Bay on 6 January 1994 had been ringed as a chick in Northern Ireland, 10 145 km away, on 13 June 1974 (SAFRING). It was nursed back to apparent health and released at the Cape of Good Hope a few days later.

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*

Formerly abundant, now common Eurasian summer visitor and passage migrant; uncommon in winter.

Numbers vary within and between summers, but roosts of several hundred are a regular feature on the shore at Buffels Bay and Bordjiesrif and many sites on the west coast. In December 1985 large numbers roosted at and foraged just off the Reserve. On 28 December there were 24 000 roosting at Die Mond and many tens, or possibly hundreds, of thousands fishing off the west coast at Skaife. On 30 December the Die Mond roost had increased to 45 000 birds, with roosts of 1 000-25 000 at six other sites. The estimated roosting population for the Reserve that day was 87 000 birds. Numbers dropped sharply soon after, with less than 500 at Die Mond and 6 500 roosting elsewhere on 19 January 1986. Small numbers are seen in winter and returning birds appear from September onwards. Birds ringed in Germany and Norway have been found at the Reserve, the German one being 17 years old and 9 884 km distant (SAFRING).

Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea*

Summer visitor and passage migrant from northern hemisphere; status uncertain, but probably uncommon.

Generally noted only when small numbers join other roosting terns, but may also occur offshore. In the south-western Cape the species is most often seen on passage (November and February/March) and probably spends most of the summer far out to sea to the south (ABSC).

Antarctic Tern *Sterna vittata*

Uncommon winter visitor from subantarctic.

Present offshore from April-August, but most frequently encountered on rocks on the west coast, notably at Hoek van Bobbejaan where roosts of up to 104 (more usually 20-60) occur (Brooke *et al.* 1988). Such roosts are susceptible to human disturbance, and few "safe havens" exist for the birds on mainland South Africa. A bird in full nuptial plumage roosted with Common Terns at Olifantsbos Point on 30 October 1985. One near the Cape of Good Hope caught sand-hoppers on the ground amongst leaf-litter on dunes from which *Acacia cyclops* had recently been cleared (Fraser and McMahon 1990d).

Damara Tern *Sterna balaenarum*

Formerly rare summer visitor, now absent. (Endangered)

This species has probably not been seen at the Reserve for almost 40 years. There was one record in 1959 or '60, and in the '70s ML report it to be "Rare, seen on a few occasions at Die Mond". Singles were there on 2 November and 23 December 1969, 19 February 1971, 9 March 1972, 15 December 1973 and 5 January 1974 (H Langley). Damara Terns breeds locally on the Cape south coast and migrate north to winter, probably off tropical west Africa, although their movements are poorly known. It is now rare in the Cape Town area, possibly reflecting a decline in numbers and/or a shift of migration route.

OSPREY FAMILY PANDIONIDAE

Osprey *Pandion haliætus*

Rare migrant from northern hemisphere.

Five records. Singles off Vasco da Gama Peak in June 1962 (ML); at Sirkelsvlei, Olifantsbos and Theefontein from 9 January to 6 August 1985; on rocks below Cape Point on 1 February 1992 (Kirsch 1992); Olifantsbos on 15 May 1993 (Tygerberg Bird Club); and by the Main Road below Anvil Rock in December 1993 (J Enticott, D Enticott, C Thomas).

VULTURES, EAGLES, BUZZARDS, HAWKS AND HARRIERS FAMILY ACCIPITRIDAE

European Honey-Buzzard *Pernis apivorus*

Rare migrant from northern hemisphere.

One record. A dark-morph immature at Olifantsbos on 14 February 2010 (J Graham, G Graham). An increase in sightings from further north on the Cape Peninsula over the past 20 years (Cohen *et al.* 2003) has been attributed to the invasion by non-native Yellow Jacket Wasp *Vespula germanica*, upon whose larvae and pupae the honey-buzzard feeds (R7).

Black-shouldered Kite *Elanus caeruleus*

Uncommon breeding resident.

Occurs in all parts of the Reserve, mostly around alien woodland and coastal thicket. About six pairs breed, making it the most common breeding raptor. Nests have been found in large *Mimetes fimbriifolius* and *Leucospermum conocarpodendron* bushes and in pine trees. Nest building commences in July and newly-fledged young have been seen in September (H Langley).

Yellow-billed Kite *Milvus parasitus*

Uncommon summer visitor from equatorial Africa; rare in winter.

One near the Homestead on 13 November 1972 (ML). There were no further records until 11 October 1984 when one was mobbed by seven Pied Crows (itself an unusual Reserve record at the time) over Rooikrans. There followed another long absence until two birds over the east-coast mountains on 17 March 1993. Single birds were near Cape Point in October-November and near Klaasjagersberg in December 1993, and wide-ranging in October-December 1994. Three singles in winter: Hestersdam in July 1967 (Loide-Abbott 1969); between Circular Drive and Meadows on 6-11 June 1994 (R Ernstzen); and near Cape Point on 19 June 1995 (J Graham). Winter occurrences are rare in the Cape (ABSC).

African Fish-Eagle *Haliæetus vocifer*

Rare visitor, formerly bred.

Successive pairs bred in the northern part of the Reserve every year since at least 1959 when a nest was found in a "small forest of pines" (Steyn 1960). Some time after this and prior to 1986 the nest was in a *Eucalyptus* tree at Theefontein. This site was destroyed in the fire of February 1986 and the birds moved to a *Eucalyptus* at Klaasjagersberg where they nested and raised a single chick every year until at least 1996. Nest renovations take place in July, the two eggs being laid soon thereafter. The chicks hatch in September and the surviving one fledges by November. The eagles have been seen catching Harders (Southern Mullet) *Liza richardsoni* at Die Mond, and Cape Dune Molerats *Bathyergus suillus* there and at The Fishery. Yellow-billed Duck have been among prey remains in the nest.

Cape Vulture *Gyps coprotheres*

Vagrant from east and north in South Africa. (Vulnerable)

Three records. Single birds near Brightwater gate in November 1983; wide-ranging 20 March-April 1984 (D Clark); and near Judas Peak in January 1989 (A Jenkins). An unconfirmed report of five soaring over Dias Beacon in November 1983. Nested on Table Mountain in the seventeenth century but was eliminated by human persecution and the rapid loss of its game-carcass food supply following European settlement at the Cape in 1652. Poisoning is now a major factor in the mortality of the bird's declining and fragmented population (ASAB). The nearest breeding colony to the Reserve is at Potberg in the southern Cape, 170 km east.

Black-chested Snake-Eagle *Circaetus pectoralis*
Local vagrant.
One record. A subadult by the Cape of Good Hope/Main Road junction on 16 November 1994 subsequently ranged widely and was last seen on 15 January 1995. This appears to be the first Peninsula record of a species of the arid Karoo and Namaqualand.

African Marsh-Harrier *Circus ranivorus*
Formerly rare breeding resident, now uncommon visitor and possible breeder. (Vulnerable)
A bird that has experienced mixed fortunes over the years. In the 1960s it was "resident and suspected of breeding" and "seen in all parts of the Reserve". A nest with four eggs was found in September 1973, and in 1975 it was still classified as a "breeding resident" with two pairs present (ML). These appear to have disappeared shortly afterwards. In 1984-91 there were 10 records (some of which may refer to the same individual), all of single birds and all but one north of Circular Drive. In March 1992, two adults and an immature ranged across the Reserve's north-western corner. There were five records of individuals in 1993 and two birds first seen in April 1995 were present until at least October. In recent years there have been more regular sightings, including one carrying food to a possible nest site in December 2012 (B Rose).

This harrier has experienced a marked decline in the south-western Cape in recent years because of habitat destruction, so the pool of local birds available to recolonise the Reserve, assuming conditions here are favourable, is small.

Black Harrier *Circus maurus*
Rare visitor. (Near Threatened)
An adult at Sirkelsvlei in September 1969 was the first Reserve record (H Langley). There were only four records between then and 1996: adults on 28 February 1986 (Foster *et al.* 1986) and in April 1987 (A Mecinski); immature in late May and June 1994 (S Mecinski *et al.*); adult in March 1995 to at least April 1996 (R Ernstzen *et al.*). The species is now seen sporadically every year or two. Two juveniles on Circular Drive in April 2001 (B Rose) were unlikely to have been raised on the Reserve. Endemic to southern Africa, Black Harrier is very rare on the Peninsula but occurs in a variety of habitats, including mountain fynbos, north and east of Cape Town.

African Harrier-Hawk *Polyboroides typus*
Rare visitor.
Six records of seven birds. An immature spent April-June 1984 at Olifantsbos; one in April-August 1985 ranged widely. Immatures also in June 1992 (Main Gate) and August 1994 (Olifantsbos). An adult was seen intermittently in July-September 1993 at Klaasjagersberg and Olifantsbos (where it caught a Black Zonure lizard *Cordylus niger*; J Hallinan); two adults frequented these sites in November 1993. An adult at the Main Gate in April 1995. A recent coloniser of the south-western Cape, almost certainly in response to the planting of alien trees (ABSC, Curtis *et al.* 2003).

Southern Pale Chanting Goshawk *Melierax canorus*
Local vagrant.
One record. One by Circular Drive on 14 August 2006 (M Harrington, B Rose, CBN). Found on the fringes of the south-western Cape, but a vagrant elsewhere in the region.

African Goshawk *Accipiter tachiro*
Uncommon visitor.
Recorded regularly, if rarely, since the first at Kanonkop on 21 August 1982 (J Graham, P Ryan). Generally confined to the alien

trees at Klaasjagersberg and along the Reserve boundary, but also frequents the cedars at the Homestead and indigenous coastal thicket. A juvenile in sparse coastal scrub near the Cape of Good Hope on 12 August 2006 (B Vanderwalt) was unusual. One stooped at a Yellow Bishop in open, short, restio-dominated fynbos on Circular Drive on 28 August 1992; another was seen to kill a widow sp here in April 1995 (P Ryan). This is very atypical habitat for this woodland hawk.

Rufous-chested Sparrowhawk *Accipiter rufiventris*
Rare breeding resident and visitor.
This and other species of tree-nesting raptor are among the birds that have benefitted from the historical planting of alien trees at the Reserve and may, therefore, almost be considered "aliens" themselves as they are present only because of human modification of the environment. First recorded at Brightwater in March 1959 (ML). Singles are occasionally seen almost anywhere else in the Reserve, mainly in aliens, occasionally in coastal thicket, and less commonly over fynbos (e.g., one on the summit of Paulsberg (Ryan *et al.* 1995), and one pursuing sunbirds at Sirkelsvlei in May 1991. A pair nested in pines at Klaasjagersberg since at least 1974, generally raising two chicks each year.

Black Sparrowhawk *Accipiter melanoleucus*
Rare visitor.
Three records. Singles over the Cape Point car park on 16 May 1993 (Tygerberg Bird Club), and at the Main Gate on 29 May 1995 (J Graham) and 12 Aug 2006 (B Rose). This forest raptor has recently established itself firmly on the Cape Peninsula, generally in alien plantations, and could be expected to make more regular appearances at the Reserve in future.

Steppe Buzzard *Buteo buteo*
Common passage migrant from Eurasia; uncommon visitor in summer, rare in winter.
The earliest returning bird was on 5 October 1986, and the population varies from month to month in summer, being highest in November-December when birds are still on passage (the species is typically gregarious on migration). Exceptional examples of this are 190 soaring over Cape Point Peak, 180 over Vasco da Gama Peak and 120 between Rooikrans and Judas Peak around midday on 4 December 1995; 200 over Rooihoogte in late November 1986 (A Mecinski); and 100 over Cape Maclear on an unrecorded date (J Graham, P Ryan). The "resident" summer population is probably 5-20 birds and they have been recorded catching small rodents, large insects and lizards including Black Zonure. A winter bird was recorded on 2 August 1989 (P Chadwick). The removal of the roadside telephone poles in 1995 deprived the buzzards (and other raptors) of convenient perches, but greatly improved the Reserve aesthetically. Steppe Buzzards wintering in southern Africa breed in Eurasia from Finland east to central Siberia and Tashkent (ASAB).

[Forest Buzzard *Buteo tachardus***]**
Unconfirmed.
Two buzzards thought to be this species were seen talon-grappling and mobbing the observer at Klaasjagersberg in December 1994 (H Langley). The species is found in this habitat (alien pines and gums) elsewhere on the Peninsula. The identification of this species is not always easy; two reported from Cape Point on 19 March 1992 are considered more likely to have been Steppe. A "Mountain Buzzard", an old synonym for this species, reported on 2 July 1963 (ML), is also more likely to have been an over-wintering Steppe Buzzard.

Jackal Buzzard *Buteo rufofuscus*
Uncommon breeding resident.
Two pairs range widely at the Reserve and at least one pair nests, confirmed most recently in 2009 (Rodrigues 2009). In a study of raptors and ravens of the Cape Peninsula, Jenkins and van Zyl (2005) recorded five nests in the 'Cape of Good Hope region', an area that includes the Reserve but also the Simonsberg and Swartkopberge between Simon's Town and the Reserve main gate.

Most often seen at the tip of the Peninsula and along the east coast mountains. One bird stooped at (and missed) a Southern Boubou at Vasco da Gama Peak. Other prey items have included Cape Grey Mongoose. A white-breasted adult was near Rooikrans in February 1985.

Verreaux's Eagle *Aquila verreauxii*
Formerly rare breeding resident, now rare visitor.
A nest site on an east-coast cliff was occupied since at least the late nineteenth century, and the Reserve population at any one time generally comprised one pair and perhaps an immature. The species has apparently not nested at the Reserve since about 1995 (A van Zyl, CBN), although occasional birds are still seen. Jenkins and van Zyl (2005) found no active nests in the 'Cape of Good Hope region' (see Jackal Buzzard) and only two elsewhere on the Peninsula. A bird wing-tagged as a nestling in 2008 at Steenbras, 40 km east across False Bay, was seen over Cape Point on 29 June 2012 (B Rose, CBN) and on a number of subsequent occasions, most recently on 8 August 2013 (G Langley, CBN). An adult was electrocuted on power lines at Perdekloof in July 1991.

Verreaux's Eagles at the Reserve prey on Angulate Tortoises *Chersina angulata*, dropping them from a height onto rocks to break the carapace (Fraser 1985a). Also observed repeatedly stooping at Baboons. In the late nineteenth century, the eagles were reported catching the lighthouse keepers' hens at the Point, taking only white birds (Green 1947)!

Booted Eagle *Hieraætus pennatus*
Rare visitor.
Six records. Dark-phase at Olifantsbos on 31 July 1977 (Martin *et al.* 1977); light-phase there on 5 June and at Buffels Bay on 16 June 1985; juvenile light-phase at Cape Point on 30 November 1987 (Brooke 1987); dark-phase on 11 September 1988 (J Graham); light-phase over Rooihoogte on 12 June 1992 (P Dresser); dark-phase near the Cape of Good Hope on 2 September 1993 (J Graham). The 1987 bird is considered to have been a northern-hemisphere migrant (Brooke 1995), the others from the small south-western Cape breeding population which established in the early 1970s. The latter parallels the limited colonisation of the south-western Cape by European Bee-eater and White Stork, both Palaearctic-breeding species.

Martial Eagle *Polemaetus bellicosus*
Local vagrant. (Vulnerable)
One record. A juvenile south over Circular Drive on 4 November 1992 (J Graham). Recorded very infrequently on the Peninsula, and rare in the south-western Cape as a whole.

SECRETARYBIRD FAMILY SAGITTARIIDAE
Secretarybird *Sagittarius serpentarius*
Rare visitor; formerly resident and has bred.
Known from the area in 1829 (Holman, in Brock *et al.* 1976) and in 1939 when a pair nested "on the flats near Smith's Farm" (Cape

Argus 2 February 1939). In 1969 it was described as "frequently seen in all parts of the reserve except where densely bushed" (ML). It is not clear if this implies many birds, or a few wide-ranging birds, although the latter is more likely. Display and mating were recorded, but breeding not confirmed at this time. By 1975 it was very rare, ML noting only one sighting (April 1973, eating a 1.2 m Mole Snake *Pseudaspis cana*) in the preceding five years. One on the Smitswinkel Flats on 27 April 1978 (J Maltby), but no further sightings until one on 20 March 1991 (F Fouché). This bird ranged widely until 30 September (Fraser and McMahon 1992).

The virtual disappearance of Secretarybird from the Reserve reflects a more general decline in the south-western Cape and elsewhere in South Africa due, it is thought, to persecution and agricultural poisons (ABSC).

FALCONS AND KESTRELS FAMILY FALCONIDAE

Lesser Kestrel *Falco naumanni*

Rare passage migrant from Eurasia. (Vulnerable)

Three records of 1-30 birds. A flock of 20-30 over Cape Point in November 1989 (B Rose); one over Buffels Bay (M Thesen), and at least three over Cape Point Peak with Steppe Buzzards on 4 December 1995. All were likely to be passage migrants recently arrived from the north. Locally common in summer in rolling wheatlands to the north and east of Cape Town, where it has increased 3-5 fold in recent years (R7), but seldom reported from the Peninsula (ABSC).

Rock Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*

Uncommon breeding resident.

Ranges widely and perches conspicuously on rocks and dead bushes. Five pairs nested in the 1990s, all on cliff sites (A van Zyl). The second-most common breeding raptor on the Reserve after Black-shouldered Kite. Jenkins and van Zyl (2005) recorded 15 nests in the 'Cape of Good Hope region' (see Jackal Buzzard).

[Greater Kestrel *Falco rupicoloides***]**

Unconfirmed vagrant form further north in South Africa.

Two reported at Theefontein from 23 December 1986 to 18 January 1987, with three there in February (Reserve records). This is very much a species of the arid Karoo that rarely ventures so far south or into such atypical habitat; to have two lingering and then three together must be questionable. There are probably no previous local occurrences, and only one or two subsequent, the most recent at Noordhoek on 25 April 2013 (C Spengler, CBN), so it remains a real south-western Cape rarity.

Eurasian Hobby *Falco subbuteo*

Rare Eurasian summer migrant.

One record. One on a telephone pole by the Main Road west of Judas Peak in December 1993 (A Lombard). There is also an unconfirmed (and, for a summer visitor, rather unlikely) report of one near Rooikrans on 12 July 1994. The species has become increasingly common in recent years in the south-western Cape and may be expected to make more frequent, if fleeting, visits to the Reserve in future.

[African Hobby *Falco cuvierii***]**

Unconfirmed vagrant from northern South Africa.

A falcon thought to be this species was seen by the Link Road on 11 April 1992 (A Mecinski). The species does not normally occur south of Zimbabwe but, coincidentally, one was seen at Langebaan three months later (Hockey and Rarities Committee 1995). The first confirmed record for the south-western Cape, it lends some support

to the putative sighting at the Reserve.

Lanner Falcon *Falco biarmicus*
Rare visitor. (Near Threatened)
Six records of seven birds. Two at Skaife on 8 May 1985 and five records of singletons: Olifantsbos on 14 December 1984 and 13 March 1985; Kommetjieberg 5 February 1985; Platboom 26 February 1986; near Cape of Good Hope 16 March 1989. Lanner is quite common in the wheatlands to the north and east of Cape Town, but is rare on the Peninsula in whose generally rocky and mountainous habitat it is replaced by Peregrine.

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus*
Rare breeding resident and possible Eurasian summer migrant. (Near Threatened)
One pair nests and is often seen displaying over Cape Point or hunting anywhere on the Reserve, most commonly along the coast. Jenkins and van Zyl (2005) recorded six nests in the 'Cape of Good Hope region' (see Jackal Buzzard). The Peninsula as a whole supports one of the densest Peregrine populations in sub-Saharan Africa (Jenkins and Benn 1998).

Observed catching Yellow-billed Ducks and Red-winged Starlings in flight, and stooping on waders (an unusual hunting strategy for southern African Peregrines) at Olifantsbos. A locally-ringed bird at Rooikrans and environs between May and July 1993 was remarkably tame, allowing car-borne observers to park at the foot of the telephone pole on which it frequently perched. A nestling ringed at the traditional Reserve nest site on 2 November 2001 was controlled (caught by ringers and released) 658 km away at Port Elizabeth on 18 March 2002.

An individual showing the characters of the Eurasian migratory race *P. f. calidus* was at Olifantsbos on 31 January 1992.

GREBES FAMILY PODICIPEDIDAE
Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*
Rare and irregular visitor; may have bred.
ML record it from Die Mond and the Homestead pond. In 1984-87 there were records from Sirkelsvlei (singletons and trilling pairs), Groot Rondevlei (pair on 14 August 1985 and in July 1986), and Die Mond (three on 5 June 1985 and an adult and an immature, which may have been reared there, in April 1987).

TROPICBIRDS FAMILY PHAETHONTIDAE
Red-tailed Tropicbird *Phaeton rubricauda*
Vagrant from tropical Indian Ocean.
Two records. One flew off a ledge at the Cape Point cliffs on 3 September 1992 (per P Steyn). An adult at the same site on 18 May 1995 lingered until mid-afternoon, returning for a few hours on three of the next eight days; last seen on 27 May. It flew around and occasionally landed on the western cliffs below the viewing points. The thirteenth record for the south-western Cape (R7) and, as one of very few twitchable ones, it attracted many birders to the Reserve (Fraser and McMahon 1995, Ryan and Turpie 1995).

A tropicbird of this species or Red-billed *P. aethereus* flew over Cape Point car park on 29 July 2004 (CBN).

GANNETS FAMILY SULIDAE
Cape Gannet *Morus capensis*
Abundant visitor. (Vulnerable)
Typically seen as straggly lines or disjointed 'V's flying low over the

sea. Thousands can be seen plunge-diving for pelagic bait fish, notably Pilchards *Sardinops sagax*, particularly in False Bay in winter. Such feeding frenzies typically occur quite far offshore, but may be observed close in when prey fish are driven inshore (sometimes even onto the beach) by birds above, dolphins at the surface and predatory fish below (Fraser and Underhill 1991). The Cape Gannet's nearest breeding colony is on Malgas Island in Saldanha Bay, 140 km north. Nesting gannets dyed bright pink there in October 1985 as part of research into the species' movements (A Berutti) were seen the following morning off Skaife heading south on fishing trips. Two ringed as nestlings on Bird Island in Algoa Bay (720 km east) have been found dead at the Reserve.

Endemic to southern Africa, the Cape Gannet's population has decreased by more than 20% in recent years (R7).

CORMORANTS FAMILY PHALACROCORACIDAE

African Darter *Anhinga melanogaster*

Rare and irregular visitor.

The first Reserve record appears to be one in the Homestead pond in July 1985 (O von Kaschke). What was presumably the same bird was seen there intermittently throughout the following spring and summer. There have been four further records at this site: 9 May 1986, June 1986, 20 July 1993, and 1 March 1994. One in a concrete reservoir at Klaasjagersberg on 30 May 1986. One fishing and roosting in Olifantsbos Bay from 7 to 12 June 1992 was unusual for a typically freshwater species. Six circling over the old Cape Point lighthouse on 27 May 1995 (B Dyer, J Graham) is similarly unusual.

Reed Cormorant *Phalacrocorax africanus*

Rare and irregular visitor.

Very occasional at the Reserve's few freshwater bodies and the Die Mond lagoon. Recorded singly in January (three records), April (four), May (one), July (one), August (one) and September (two); three at Sirkelsvlei on 24 April 1986.

Crowned Cormorant *Phalacrocorax coronatus*

Common visitor. (Near Threatened)

The marine equivalent of Reed Cormorant, most typically seen in small parties roosting on the rocks with other cormorants. Relatively large numbers, with groups of up to 50, were noted on the west coast in September 1994. Recent counts suggest that it has become more common in the Reserve (P Ryan). The nearest breeding colony is at Cape Hangklip, 30 km east of Cape Point across False Bay.

White-breasted Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*

Uncommon breeding resident and common visitor.

Breeds on the cliffs at the tip of the Peninsula and, probably, elsewhere along the cliffs in the north-east of the Reserve. There were 75 nests at "Cape Point" in March 1973 (H Langley) and 70 nests at “Cape Point excluding Cape Maclear” in September 1985. Ryan *et al.* (1991) give 101 nests at "Cape Point cliffs". Comes ashore anywhere along the coast to roost, often with other cormorant species. Fishes close to the shore, and at Olifantsbos Bay have been seen pursuing Harders in the shallows and catching leaping fish in mid-air. One at The Fishery caught jumping sandhoppers on the sandy beach.

Bank Cormorant *Phalacrocorax neglectus*

Uncommon visitor; present all year. (Endangered)

Singles or small groups (rarely more than 10) loaf on the rocks anywhere along the coast with other cormorants. About 20 pairs nest (or used to nest) on granite islets off Partridge Point just to the north of the Reserve (B Dyer); birds along the north-west coast probably

derive from Duikerklip off Hout Bay as adults have a foraging range of generally less than 10 km (ASAB). Numbers and sightings have decreased in recent years, and only one bird was found in a complete census of the Reserve's coastline in December 2010 (P Ryan).

A relatively deep-diving cormorant that fishes in kelp beds, Bank Cormorant is endemic to the Benguela Upwelling system off the western Cape and Namibia. Food shortage, displacement by Cape Fur Seals, and coastal development and disturbance have seen its population decrease by >50% in recent years (R7).

Cape Cormorant *Phalacrocorax capensis*
Common breeding resident and abundant visitor. (Near Threatened)
Nests on the cliffs at Cape Point and the Cape of Good Hope/Cape Maclear massif and on the north-east coast at Batsata Cove. Breeding commences in July and continues until January or February. There were 230 nests at "Cape Point" in March 1973 (H Langley) and 643 in 1981 (Cooper *et al.* 1982, who also note nine nests at Batsata Cove). It is not clear if the same areas were counted on each occasion, and their timing within the breeding season differs; these figures do not, therefore, necessarily represent a population increase. Similarly, counts of 300 nests at "Cape Point" in September 1984 and 636 there in December 1987 lack an accurate description of their distribution. In September 1985 there were 944 nests at "Cape Point excluding Cape Maclear" (O von Kaschke). Although the exact size of the population is unclear, the Reserve does support the largest mainland-breeding colony of this southern-African endemic.

Birds collected aromatic plants, including a prostrate composite species, from the ground by the Cape of Good Hope car park to line their nests. Feeding frenzies of tens of thousands in winter and spring pursue pelagic fish in False Bay. Smaller frenzies, usually including Cape Gannets and other seabirds, can be seen at any time of year off either coast. Roosts of up to 6 000 gather on the west coast, notably at the rocky reef off the Cape of Good Hope car park, at Olifantsbos Point and The Fishery.

EGRETS AND HERONS FAMILY ARDEIDAE

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*
Common visitor.
Forages in rock pools at low tide anywhere along the coast. Parties of 10-20 are regular at Olifantsbos Bay feeding in the intertidal or roosting on the grassy bank by the stream mouth. The highest count here is 31 on 19 January 1986.

Little Blue Heron *Egretta caerulea*
Nearctic vagrant.
One record. A second-year bird in transitional plumage on the rocky shore near the Cape of Good Hope car park on 8 August 2000 (P Lawson, E Barnes). This was the second record for Africa and South Africa after a long-staying bird at the Berg River Estuary in 1992-96 (R7, SARBN). Some or all of the five subsequent records in the western Cape may have been the Reserve bird. One in Namibia in March 2003 is the only other subcontinental record.

Yellow-billed Egret *Egretta intermedia*
Rare and irregular visitor.
ML first recorded it at Platboom on 24 December 1963 "and on a number of occasions thereafter along the Olifantsbos coast". It has remained scarce, being seen on only four occasions in 1984-96 with singles at Olifantsbos Bay on 8 August 1984 and 28 March 1985,

four there on 14 October 1987, and one at the Homestead pond on 14 April 1987. A bird of damp grasslands and floodplains, it is fairly common in this habitat elsewhere on the Peninsula.

[Great Egret *Egretta alba***]**
Unconfirmed local vagrant.
One reported from Die Mond sometime in the mid-1970s (Reserve records) is likely to have been misidentified. It was, at the time, a rare species in the south-western Cape and has only become a regular, if scarce, visitor to the Peninsula since the mid-1980s (ABSC).

Western Reef Heron *Egretta gularis*
Rare vagrant from further north in Africa.
One record. One at Buffels Bay on 13 April 2002 was the first record for southern Africa (Graham 2002). It remained for two days before relocating to Olifantsbos Bay from 17 April to at least 10 June. One at Buffels Bay on 10 May 2003 (B Rose) and just outside the Reserve at Kommetjie on 5 September is likely to have been the same long-staying bird. There have been two subsequent southern African records: Rondebult Bird Sanctuary (Gauteng) 15-28 April 2006, and Katima Mulilo (Namibia) 16 June 2006 (R7). The species' normal range is Africa south to Gabon in the west and Kenya in the east.

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*
Common visitor.
Occurs all year, hunting singly in coastal rock pools, the Homestead ponds, the Krom River, and any seasonal and permanent vleis. Up to six roost in the Homestead cypress trees with Black-headed Herons. Breeds colonially at freshwater bodies further north on the Peninsula.

Black-headed Heron *Ardea melanocephala*
Uncommon visitor.
Most often found in ones, twos and threes in grassy coastal areas and vegetated dunes, but also forages in short fynbos along the coastal forelands and, in 1984-96, occasionally inland, but more so recently (P Ryan). Unlike Grey Heron, rarely frequents freshwater or rock pools.

Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*
Uncommon visitor.
Regularly seen with livestock in the pastures just north of the boundary fence but scarce in the Reserve. Most frequent in the company of Bontebok in the old paddock at Klaasjagersberg; occasional with Bontebok or Ostrich in grassy areas at the Homestead, Theefontein (maximum of eight on 16 April 1987), and Olifantsbos (maximum of 26 on 25 October 1992). At the last-named site Skead (1966) reports birds feeding on sandhoppers on the beach. Cattle Egret was unknown in the south-western Cape until the 1930s but was abundant here by the '80s (ABSC).

Black-crowned Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*
Uncommon visitor.
Up to 16, including immatures, roost in the Camphor Trees at the Homestead pond. Birds also occasionally roost in gums at Klaasjagersberg and the Milkwood thicket at Olifantsbos. Feeds along the coast at night.

HAMERKOP FAMILY SCOPIDAE
Hamerkop *Scopus umbretta*
Uncommon visitor; has bred.
In 1984-96, most often seen in winter, ranging widely to hunt frogs at

seasonal vleis. In summer, largely confined to permanent water bodies such as the Homestead pond. Two nests in the Klaasjagersberg gum trees were inspected and renovated each winter and spring. Breeding was apparently unsuccessful in the 1980s and '90s because the Hamerkops were evicted by Egyptian Geese. Breeding was last recorded at Olifantsbos in 1982, although two old nests there were occasionally renovated in subsequent years. A pair also nested at Gifkommetjie where there are three old nests. In 1974 one of these was found to be constructed of “paper, dung, sticks, cloth and an item of female undergarment” (H Langley). All these traditional nests sites are no longer occupied. There have been no recent records at the Reserve and it is now very rare on the Peninsula as a whole following a decline that has been attributed, in part, to Egyptian Geese usurping them from their nests (ABSC, ASAB).

FLAMINGOES FAMILY PHOENICOPTERIDAE

Greater Flamingo *Phoenicopterus ruber*

Uncommon visitor. (Near Threatened)

The flamingos that "used to inhabit marshy ground and small lakelets during the winter months" (Cape Times, 2 December 1938) were presumably this species, although it is difficult to imagine any flamingo feeding from the Reserve's blackwaters. Two at Die Mond on 16-17 December 1979 appear to be the first modern Reserve record. One was also there in early October 1984. A flock of 86 on Skaife beach on 12 October 1984 later roosted on the beach north of Menskoppunt. On 30 October a single was at The Fishery, with 40 there on 1 November. Two flew past Skaife on 5 March 1984; four there on 27 April flew south far out to sea amongst White-chinned Petrels. Twenty-five flew south off Pegram's Point on 4 September 1995 (J Kemp). The only recent records are of four at Die Mond on 25 December 2010, and one passing Rooikrans the following week (B Rose). The nearest regular breeding grounds are in Namibia and Botswana, but the species is a common visitor to the south-western Cape (ABSC).

[Lesser Flamingo *Phoenicopterus minor***]**

Unconfirmed local vagrant. (Near Threatened)

Two diminutive flamingos with the Greaters on 12 October 1984 were reported as this species (Reserve records). It is thought that they were, in fact, runt Greaters which, according to Kakebeeke and Lamont (1993), occur with some regularity in the Cape. The species is a fairly common visitor to freshwater and, particularly, saline waterbodies elsewhere on the Peninsula, and attempted to breed at Kommetjie in 1981 (ABSC).

IBISES AND SPOONBILLS FAMILY THRESKIORNITHIDAE

Sacred Ibis *Threskiornis aethiopicus*

Common visitor.

A recent coloniser of the south-western Cape and the Peninsula. The first Reserve record appears to be one on the Homestead lawn during an unseasonal north-westerly gale on 6 January 1985 (D Clark). Another was at Mast Bay on 7 July that year.

Of note has been the subsequent increase in this species, beginning with a small group on the beach at Olifantsbos Bay in September 1989. On 7 October, 22 were there, probing heaps of rotting kelp. In the following few weeks this flock commuted between Olifantsbos Bay and Die Mond and visited the dune slacks to catch frogs and tadpoles. By January 1991 their numbers had risen to 70 and they had become, and remain, a regular feature of this stretch of coast (Fraser and McMahon 1991b). The birds have since spread along the western coastline and to other parts of the Reserve, including Buffels Bay where they forage on the lawns and the beach. The

highest count in 1984-96 was 157 between Olifantsbos Bay and Menskoppunt on 23 December 1992. It is now much more numerous and widespread here and along the south-west Cape coast areas as a whole (Ryan 2012).

No environmental changes that might favour the ibises have taken place at the Reserve itself, but in the south-western Cape as a whole agriculture (notably the conversion of natural vegetation to pasturage) and a proliferation of rubbish dumps have allowed Sacred Ibis to colonise areas well beyond its former, "natural" range (ABSC). Indeed, in the early twentieth century its southern African breeding population was confined to a few offshore islands (ASAB).

It remains to be seen if the human-mediated arrival of Sacred Ibis at the Reserve will impact upon breeding shorebirds, such as African Black Oystercatcher, through egg and chick predation. When feeding at blackwater vleis, the ibises may also potentially threaten the Reserve's important amphibian fauna. This comprises 15 species of frog and toad, including the Cape Platanna *Xenopus gilli*, an ***Endangered*** Red List species, 70% of whose world population is found at the Reserve (Minter et al. 2004).

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*
Common visitor.
The "60-80" reported from Olifantsbos Bay on 6 November 2005 (G Kieswetter, CBN) seem to be the first documented record of the species at the Reserve, although it likely appeared some time earlier, post-1996. It is now fairly regular in generally smaller numbers at that site and occasional elsewhere.

Considered to occur in southern Africa only as a Palaearctic vagrant as recently as the 1950s (ASAB), the rapid invasion of the subcontinent by Glossy Ibis led to it breeding on the Peninsula in 1955 (ABSC). It has increased markedly in numbers and range since then, paralleling, albeit a few years behind, colonisation of the region by Sacred Ibis.

Hadeda Ibis *Bostrychia hagedash*
Common visitor; one pair has nested.
The spread of this species in South Africa in response to man-modification of the environment has been well documented (Macdonald *et al.* 1986, ASAB). The Hadeda's final conquest of the Cape took place in August 1988 when a party was recorded at Klaasjagersberg, thus reaching the virtual limit of their potential range (Fraser and Wright 1989). By 1992 the species was all but resident there, with up to six feeding in the paddock and roosting in the trees. A pair nested in a pine tree there in 1994; at least one young hatched but died in the nest. Counts include seven that flew from the sea at Buffels Bay on 13 July 1992 (A Mecinski), and 18 at Olifantsbos Bay on 22 April 2013 (H Langley). Now occurring almost anywhere in the Reserve with suitable foraging habitat, the species was recorded on the coast from Buffels Bay to Bordjiesrif, Olifantsbos to Die Mond, and at the Cape of Good Hope in December 2010 (P Ryan).

African Spoonbill *Platalea alba*
Local vagrant.
One record of two birds. Two at Klein Rondevlei on 4 December 1994 (J Ackroyd *et al.*). Common resident at and visitor to freshwater bodies elsewhere on the Peninsula.

PELICANS FAMILY PELECANIDAE

[Eastern White Pelican *Pelecanus onocrotolatus***]**

Unconfirmed local vagrant. (Near Threatened)

A vague report of a "pelican" flying past Cape Point in December 1994 (per C Nortier and R Ernstzen) would presumably refer to this species. Feeds at vleis on the nearby Peninsula and Strandfontein Sewage Works on the Cape Flats and breeds at Dassen Island off the west coast, 100 km north of the Reserve. A confirmed appearance at the Reserve, even in passing, is much overdue.

STORKS FAMILY CICONIIDAE

White Stork *Ciconia ciconia*

Uncommon passage migrant from Eurasia.

Recorded most often flying over in September-October, flocks generally of 5-40 presumably being birds newly arrived from their northern hemisphere breeding grounds and moving through to their wintering areas in the southern Cape wheatlands where they occur mainly in December-February (ASAB). Highest counts have been 150 on 8 December 1990 (J Graham), 70 in March 1994 (C Nortier), 70 in off the sea at Cape Point on 5 March 2005 (T Frost, CBN), and 50 over Olifantsbos and then Cape Point on 12 March 2009 (B Berg, M MacIver, CBN). Storks occasionally settle and linger for a day or two to feed, such as the 42 that roosted in gum trees at Klaasjagersberg on 19-20 March 1987, and 27 that spent a few days on a small pan near Menskoppunt in October 2012 (H Langley). Thirty-four flew south off Cape Point on 12 March 1986 and small flocks have been seen from fishing boats far to the south of the Point.

The earliest sightings are 11 over Cape Point on 1 August 2013 (B Rose), one over the Smitswinkel Flats on 30 August 1993 (R Ernstzen), and one on the Homestead lawn on 10 September 1985 (D Clark); the latest were two at Klaasjagersberg on 6 May 1986 (O von Kaschke), two over Cape Point on 10 May 2011 (L Strydom, CBN), and a single feeding on sandhoppers on Skaife beach on 14 May 1993 (Tygerberg Bird Club).

Black Stork *Ciconia nigra*

Rare visitor. (Near Threatened)

Four records. Singles at unnamed sites on in 1959 or 1960, on 16 September 1978 (Anon 1978) and March 1987 (O von Kaschke), and at Sirkelsvlei and Die Mond in January 1972 (ML). Formerly occurred in the Fish Hoek-Noordhoek Valley wetlands, now largely destroyed, 12 km north of the Reserve. It has also become markedly less common in South Africa in recent years.

PENGUINS FAMILY SPHENISCIDAE

Macaroni Penguin *Eudyptes chrysolophus*

Vagrant from subantarctic. (Vulnerable)

Three records. A moulting bird found at Platboom on 26 February 1983 was taken into care but died a month later (von Kaschke 1987). An injured bird found near Olifantsbos Bay on 26 February 1987 also died; it constituted the seventh record for South Africa (von Kaschke 1987, Cooper 1988). One at "the Cape of Good Hope" on 5 March 1999 was taken to the Southern African Foundation for the Conservation of Coastal Birds (SANCCOB) for rehabilitation.

As with Rockhopper Penguin (below), some of these birds may have been ship-assisted. Green (1955) reports that "Large numbers of macaroni penguins were washed ashore at Cape Point in 1826". No details are given and this does seem a most unlikely occurrence unless they were dumped off a passing ship. The species' nearest

breeding grounds are at the Prince Edward Islands, 2 180 km southeast of the Cape.

Northern Rockhopper Penguin *Eudyptes moseleyi*
Vagrant from central south Atlantic. (Vulnerable)
Four records. Adult at Buffels Bay in 1969; moulting adult near Olifantsbos Bay on 1 February 1987; dead post-moult adult at Olifantsbos Point on 1 April 1994 (Cooper 1983, 1988; Fraser and McMahon 1992c; O von Kaschke); one moulting on 11 February 2001. The latter was taken by tourists to Boulder's Beach at Simon's Town "so that it could meet the African Penguins" there but was subsequently taken into care by SANCCOB. The penultimate bird was the 48th South African record. A Rockhopper picked up near Bakoven in the northern Peninsula was liberated briefly at Olifantsbos Point on 12 January 1989 before being taken to SANCCOB and released at Cape Point in February when it had completed its moult (Cooper 1988). A crested penguin sheltering in the wreck of the *Thomas T. Tucker* on the unusual date of 2 October 1993 was probably this species (D Wootton).

Northern Rockhopper Penguin breeds at the Tristan da Cunha group and Gough Island in the central south Atlantic. Birds found ashore in South Africa may have been ship-assisted having been accidentally caught in fishing nets or illegally purloined as "pets" from on or near their breeding islands before being dropped overboard as the vessels come in sight of the Cape. Alternatively, and in light of modern patterns of occurrence, they are most likely to be genuine current-drifted vagrants that have come ashore to moult.

African Penguin *Spheniscus demersus*
Common visitor. (Vulnerable)
The majority of the birds recorded off the west coast are presumably commuters from the nesting colony at Boulders at Simon's Town, 10 km north on the False Bay coast. These are seen regularly but can be difficult to spot unless the sea is very calm. Penguins also come ashore in ones or twos anywhere along the coast to rest.

Dead African Penguins are found quite often on the beaches, with oiling a prevalent cause of mortality. Ringed birds have been found from Robben Island, 52 km to the north, and St Croix Island, 719 km east. The latter represents a south coast-west coast interchange, a phenomenon that is apparently unusual (SAFRING). A juvenile released at the Reserve on 10 June 1989 was found injured 83 months later at Mercury island, Namibia, 1 021 km to the north.

STORM PETRELS FAMILY OCEANITIDAE
Wilson's Storm Petrel *Oceanites oceanicus*
Common winter visitor and passage migrant from Antarctic and sub-antarctic.

A frequent component of seabird movements although their diminutive size sometimes makes them difficult to pick out as they flitter and dip in the troughs of waves. Can be seen at any time of year under favourable conditions, but most numerous by far on northward autumn passage in April-May and in winter. Breeds in the Antarctic and on subantarctic islands, dispersing widely to the north in the non-breedng season.

European Storm-Petrel *Hydrobates pelagicus*
Uncommon summer visitor from North Atlantic
Not recorded from the shore until January 2003, when up to four a day passed Rooikrans (B Rose). Prior to that the species had been seen from boats in False Bay close to the Reserve coast, and within a kilometre west of Cape Point, e.g. 12 feeding between Cape Point

and Anvil Rock on 6 April 1984 (P. Cardwell).

The potential for tape-luring European Storm-Petrels at the Cape of Good Hope is worth investigating (Fraser 1995), as long as broadcasting breeding-season vocalisations does not interfere with the birds' austral behaviour and movements.

ALBATROSSES FAMILY DIOMEDEIDAE

Wandering Albatross *Diomedea exulans*

Rare visitor from subantarctic. (Vulnerable)

Three records. A subadult off Olifantsbos Point on 20 April 1984 (Fraser 1984a), a juvenile off Cape Point in September 2008 (B Rose), and a juvenile between Cape Point and the Bellows on 2 October 2008 (SARBN). Occurs on the pelagic-fishing grounds 30-50 km out to sea beyond the continental shelf but is rare landward of this demarcation and, consequently, rarely seen by shorebased seawatchers.

Northern Royal Albatross *Diomedea sanfordi*

Vagrant from subantarctic. (Endangered)

Two records. Singles off Cape Point in October 2005 (B Rose) and on 16 May 2006 (SARBN). Breeds on islands off New Zealand, spending the non-breeding season ranging widely in the southern oceans. Regional distribution as for Wandering Albatross (above). A record from Cape Point on 19 October 1991 was not accepted by the Rarities Committee as the description did not preclude Wandering Albatross.

Salvin's Albatross *Thalassarche salvini*

Vagrant from subantarctic. (Vulnerable)

One off the Cape of Good Hope in May 1995 (C Spottiswoode). An uncommon vagrant to South African waters with the majority of the 40 or so national records made by pelagic birders "off the Cape Peninsula" (R7). Juveniles are especially difficult to separate from Shy Albatross at a distance, so may be more regular off the Reserve than this one record would suggest.

Shy Albatross *Thalassarche cauta*

Common winter visitor from subantarctic; rare in summer. (Vulnerable)

Occuring closer inshore than other albatross species in southern African waters, Shy is the most common albatross off the Reserve's west coast. May be seen at any time of year when the west wind blows, but is very scarce in summer. Particularly numerous in April and August-October when 100 passing in an hour is not unusual. Systematic counts are few, but include 121 north and 33 south past Olifantsbos in two hours on 8 August 1984. Nests on islands off Tasmania, in the Bass Strait and south of New Zealand and has a circumpolar non-breeding distribution north to the Tropic of Capricorn.

Black-browed Albatross *Thalassarche melanophris*

Common winter visitor from subantarctic; rare in summer. (Endangered)

Second in abundance only to Shy Albatross and, like it, most often seen off the west coast during westerly winds in winter. Many of the birds are immatures with characteristically dusky underwings. Breeds circumglobally at islands in the southern Indian Ocean, off New Zealand, the Falkland Islands and South Georgia. Ringing recoveries indicate that the last-named site is the origin of birds wintering off southern Africa.

[Grey-headed Albatross *Thalassarche chrysostoma***]**
Unconfirmed vagrant. (Vulnerable)
A "probable" seen from Cape Point on 23 May 2004 (B Rose, J Graham). A rare winter visitor to Cape coastal waters from the subantarctic.

Atlantic Yellow-nosed Albatross *Thalassarche chlororhynchos*
Uncommon winter visitor from from central south Atlantic. (Endangered)
Small numbers regular offshore from April to October. Most usually seen in the large-scale seabird movements associated with the passage of cold fronts. Breeds at the Tristan da Cunha group and Gough Island in the central south Atlantic. Indian Yellow-nosed Albatross *T. carteri* has apparently not yet been seen from the Reserve although it is now more commonly seen than Atlantic Yellow-nosed "off Cape Point" on pelagic birding trips.

Dark-mantled Sooty Albatross *Phoebetria fusca*
Vagrant from subantarctic. (Endangered)
Two records. One off the Cape of Good Hope in September 1969 (ML); an immature found dead near Olifantsbos Point on 10 October 1984 (Fraser *et al.* 1984, Sinclair and Rarities Committee 1986). The species breeds at four island groups in the southern Indian Ocean and at the Tristan group and Gough. A very rare visitor to South African coastal waters, most records have been of beached birds. A distant sooty albatross flying north past Skaife on 4 July 1985 was either this species or Light-mantled Sooty Albatross.

Light-mantled Sooty Albatross *Phoebetria palpebrata*
Vagrant from subantarctic. (Near Threatened)
One or two records. One seen from the Cape of Good Hope in August 1974 (I. Sinclair). R7 lists "one from Cape Point" in winter 1977; ABSC gives only two records for the south-western Cape, both of beached birds, in 1971 and '82. Rare in southern Africa coastal waters with only 15 records (R7). The nearest breeding grounds are at the Prince Edward Islands, and only off the west coast of South America does the species typically occur north of about 40˚S in winter.

PETRELS, SHEARWATERS AND PRIONS FAMILY PROCELLARIIDAE

Southern Giant Petrel *Macronectes giganteus*
Common winter visitor from Antarctic and subantarctic; rare in summer. (Near Threatened)
Southern and Northern Giant Petrel were formerly considered to be one species. Both occur off the Reserve, mainly in winter but with occasional summer records. Many come close enough (often over the breakers) to be identified to species level, but distant birds are more problematic and most birders are happy to lump them as "giants". Of the giant petrels specifically identified, about 20% are Southerns. The unmistakable white-phase Southern has been seen at least twice (August 1992 and May 1994) from the Cape of Good Hope. Breeds on the Antarctic Peninsula and Antarctic and subantarctic islands.

Northern Giant Petrel *Macronectes halli*
Common winter visitor from Antarctic and subantarctic; uncommon in summer. (Near Threatened)
The commoner of the two giant petrels, with small numbers (but occasionally up to 50) seen in a typical morning's seawatch. Most of the giant petrels that come close to shore are Northerns, as are the majority seen in summer. Scavenges at fishing boats. Breeds on the Falklands and islands around New Zealand and in the southern Indian Ocean.

Southern Fulmar *Fulmarus glacialoides*
Rare winter visitor from Antarctic.
The first Reserve record was one off the Cape of Good Hope that settled briefly on the water close to shore during a Force 8 north-westerly on 8 September 1991 (Ryan 1991), a day of heavy seabird passage, notably Sooty Shearwaters. Another at the same site on 26 June 1995 (Hardaker 1995), with a small number of records in subsequent years, including five seen on separate winter seawatches (B Rose). The most recent record is of one just east of Cape Point on 8 August 2013 (G Langley, CBN). Scarce in South African waters, and rarely ventures landward of the continental shelf break. Breeds on a few deep-south islands and on the Antarctic continent.

Pintado Petrel *Daption capense*
Common winter visitor from Antarctic.
This black-and-white chequered petrel is common on windy days in August and September off the west coast. Up to 100 may be seen in a morning off the Cape of Good Hope. Less frequent under similar conditions in April-July and October, with the odd sighting in summer. Occasionally found dead on the shore.

Great-winged Petrel *Pterodroma macroptera*
Uncommon winter and rare summer visitor from subantarctic.
One or two seen with seabird movements under stormy conditions in winter. Although more are present in South African waters in summer (its non-breeding season), wind conditions do not generally favour sightings off the Cape of Good Hope at this time as the birds rarely approach the coast. A distinctive and determined flight pattern characterises this all-dark petrel. Breeds on southern Indian and Atlantic Ocean islands and in Australia and New Zealand.

Atlantic Petrel *Pterodroma incerta*
Vagrant from from central south Atlantic.
Two records. Singles within 500 m Cape Point on 29 May 2004 (B Rose, SARBN) and one seen from the Point just inside False Bay on 3 July 2012 (B Rose, SARBN). Endemic to Tristan da Cunha and Gough, and rare even in continental-shelf waters, these may be the only Atlantic Petrels ever seen from the shore outwith its native islands. There are 17 records from boats off the western Cape, including singles off Cape Point and in the Peninsula in Atlas square 3418CC in March 2002 and July 2003 (R7).

Soft-plumaged Petrel *Pterodroma mollis*
Common winter visitor from subantarctic.
The characteristic "switch-back" flight and dark underwings of this attractive gadfly petrel make it relatively easy to pick out during seawatches from the Cape of Good Hope and elsewhere on the west coast. Regular in small numbers (up to 30 moving north in an hour) in the winter months, but particularly numerous in August-September when on its way back to its southern Atlantic and Indian Ocean breeding islands. Occasionally enters False Bay in spring and autumn during south-easters.

Blue Petrel *Halobaena caerulea*
Vagrant from subantarctic.
Remains of two birds on Skaife Beach on 5 August 1984 (Fraser *et al.* 1984). These formed part of a major irruption of southern ocean seabirds into South African waters at this time (Avery 1989, Ryan *et al.* 1989, Jury 1991).

Broad-billed Prion *Pachyptilla vittata*
Winter visitor from subantarctic; status uncertain but probably common.
Likely to feature in general seabird movements in winter, but difficult to identify specifically. One moribund at Buffels Bay in 1993 on the unseasonal date of 24 December.

Antarctic Prion *Pachyptilla desolata*
Abundant winter visitor from subantarctic.
Flocks of hundreds or thousands stream north along the west coast and past Cape Point under windy conditions in June-September. Occasionally found dead on the beach.

Slender-billed Prion *Pachyptilla belcheri*
Winter visitor from subantarctic; status uncertain, but probably rare.
Occurrence as for Broad-billed Prion (above), but probably in much smaller numbers. A few dead birds washed ashore during the winter seabird wreck of 1984.

White-chinned Petrel *Procellaria aequinoctialis*
Common visitor from subantarctic. (Near Threatened)
Although its numbers do not exceed Sooty Shearwater and prions, its year-round presence and nearshore coasting (often just over the breakers at the Cape of Good Hope car park) make White-chinned Petrel the most dependable pelagic species at the Reserve. Particularly numerous in winter, when many hundreds can be seen off the west coast. Scavenges offal and attends fishing boats off the Point and follows the returning Kalk Bay hand-liners into False Bay in the early afternoon.

Gerber (1978) describes the Whitechin as "a very good bird, and once you eat it you will always want to eat it again". In the past, dead birds found on the Reserve beaches often comprised just the wings and cleaned sternum, an indication that they had been killed for the pot by catching them from boats with a baited hook. This illegal activity has now largely ceased. Breeds at islands in the southern Indian and Atlantic Oceans and south of New Zealand and, as with most species of large petrels and albatrosses, suffers high levels of accidental mortality from long-line fishing gear.

Cory's Shearwater *Calonectris diomedea*
Abundant summer visitor and passage migrant from northern hemisphere.
Largest numbers occur offshore during strong southeasters in March-May (e.g., 1 000 on two days in May 2012; B Rose), but may be seen any time from October-May. On calm days hundreds of birds gather in rafts off the Point. In May 1986, there were many loose groups of Cory’s Shearwaters off Buffels Bay together with Dusky Dolphins *Lagenorhynchus obscurus* pursuing bait fish (P Cardwell). This large, distinctively pale shearwater breeds on Mediterranean and North Atlantic islands, wintering in the southern Atlantic and south-west Indian Ocean.

Great Shearwater *Puffinus gravis*
Common passage migrant and visitor from central South Atlantic.
Many hundreds occasionally appear offshore in late March-May after breeding on the Tristan da Cunha islands and Gough, and during their "honeymoon" period in October. One dead on Skaife Beach on 6 June 1984 was unseasonal as the birds winter in the North Atlantic, notably on the Newfoundland Bank.

Flesh-footed Shearwater *Puffinus carneipes*
Rare migrant from southern Indian Ocean.
Seen very occasionally (probably less than five records) from the Cape Point/Cape of Good Hope seawatching sites (B Rose, J Graham). Associated with oceanic waters of the warm Agulhas current (ASAB), occasionally following its cells or filaments around the Cape and approaching close to shore, often with heavy movements of other seabirds such as Sooty Shearwaters. Known to occasionally enter False Bay during strong southeasters in autumn (Fraser and McMahon 1996). A record of three in False Bay off Cape Point on 23 April 1994 was not accepted by the Cape Bird Club Rare Birds Committee (Allan et al. 1995). Breeds on St Paul Island in the Indian Ocean and islands off Australia and New Zealand.

Sooty Shearwater *Puffinus griseus*
Abundant visitor and passage migrant from subantarctic.
Can be seen at any time of year, typically when onshore winds are blowing. Formerly spectacularly abundant in winter and spring when hundreds of thousands careened past the Cape in July and August in north-westerly gales. More than 1 000 per minute have been estimated passing Skaife under these conditions (Fraser and McMahon 1986a). Has become noticeably less abundant in recent years, but hundreds may still be seen off Cape Point under favourable conditions. A trans-equatorial migrant in the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, Sooty Shearwater breeds in the austral summer on a number of southern ocean islands.

Manx Shearwater *Puffinus puffinus*
Rare migrant from the northern hemisphere.
In 1990-94 there were six records involving seven birds: singles off the Cape of Good Hope on 29 April 1990, 22 May and 3 July 1994; two off Cape Point on 12 October 1991, and one on 27 March 1994; one off Buffels Bay on 22 March 1992 (T Boucher, J Graham, J Roussouw *et al.*). The Cape Point and Buffels Bay birds were associated with heavy movements of Cory's Shearwaters. In recent years the species has become regular in small numbers in movements of Sooty Shearwaters in summer and winter (B Rose). Nests in north-western Europe, ranging widely across the southern Atlantic in the non-breeding season.

Little Shearwater *Puffinus assimilis*
Rare migrant from Atlantic and Indian Oceans.
One past Skaife on 11 March 1985 (Hockey and Rarities Committee 1989) was the first for the Reserve. Subsequent records from Cape Point and the Cape of Good Hope reflect the increasing efforts of seawatchers. "Several" were seen from the Cape of Good Hope round the Bellows on an unspecified date in 2005 and on 24 May 2006 (A Cope). In 2006, singles were there on 26 May (B Rose *et al.*) and 7 June (of the distinctively pale-faced western Australian race *tunneyi*; T Hardaker), and off Cape Point on 12 August (Hardaker 2006). Now seen in late May and early June almost every year, usually singly but with two off Cape Point on 7 July 2012 (SARBN), and as many as 13, including five together, at the Bellows one May day (J Graham, B Rose). A rare winter visitor to South African waters, generally well offshore.

ORIOLES FAMILY ORIOLIDAE
[European Golden Oriole *Oriolus oriolus***]**
Unconfirmed Eurasian vagrant.
A report of one at the Homestead on 5 October 1994 (Reserve records) could not be substantiated. A migrant from Eurasia, the species is extremely rare on the Peninsula. Occasionally recorded in November-April in suburban gardens as close as Somerset West, however, so its future occurrence at the Reserve cannot be ruled out.

DRONGOS FAMILY DICRURIDAE

Fork-tailed Drongo *Dicrurus adsimilis*

Rare visitor.

Two at Klaasjagersberg on 18 October 1986 (G Wright) constitute the first Reserve record. In 1993 there were singles at the Main Gate on 25 March and in July, and two at Klaasjagersberg on 1 April (Coats *et al.* 1993, D Mecinska). The species has since become established in small numbers at the latter site and along the northern boundary. This forest-edge species is uncommon west of Cape Agulhas, but is expanding its range towards Cape Town (ABSC). Although the Reserve birds may represent forerunners of a colonisation of the Peninsula made possible by alien vegetation, it is unlikely now to become established south of Klaasjagersberg because of the absence of suitable habitat. Occasionally seen in alien woodland and pastures across the road just to the north of the Reserve.

PARADISE FLYCATCHERS FAMILY MUSCICAPIDAE

African Paradise-Flycatcher *Terpsiphone viridis*

Rare, localised intra-African breeding summer migrant.

Present from October-February when one or two pairs breed in the alien trees and gardens at Klaasjagersberg and Perdekloof. The only other potentially suitable habitat for this woodland species is the patch of indigenous forest at Bordjiesrif.

BOUBOUS AND BUSH SHRIKES FAMILY MALACONOTIDAE

Southern Boubou *Laniarius ferrugineus*

Uncommon and localised breeding resident.

Confined to dense coastal thicket and alien bush in which it is something of a skulker and most readily detected by its call. An exception is those birds by the Cape Point car park and alongside the footpath up to the viewing sites there. These are quite confiding, and a vigorous "skish" will often bring them out into the open, even in the presence of crowds of visitors. A bird ringed at Olifantbos in March 1993 was found 16 months later at Scarborough, 8 km north.

Bokmakierie *Telophorus zeylonus*

Uncommon but widespread breeding resident.

Occurs at low densities in sparse coastal thicket and any fynbos that includes a scattering of woody shrubs a metre or more in height. This beautiful bush-shrike is most conspicuous in winter and spring when pairs perform their antiphonal duets from exposed perches. Breeding recorded in August-December.

BATISES FAMILY PLATYSTEIRIDAE

Cape Batis *Batis capensis*

Local vagrant.

Two records involving three birds. A pair at Klaasjagersberg on 3 January 1974 (H Langley) and a female there on 8 September 1995 (A Mecinski). Although there is little suitable habitat for it at the Reserve (the gardens at Klaasjagersberg and one or two patches of evergreen thicket and forest on the east coast), this is a poor showing for a bird that is reasonably common elsewhere on the Peninsula.

CROWS AND RAVENS FAMILY CORVIDAE

Black Crow *Corvus capensis*

Local vagrant.

"A solitary record" pre-1969 (ML). Common in the wheatlands east of the Hottentots' Holland, but rarely ventures west of these mountains to the Peninsula and does not generally overlap with Pied Crow in the region (ABSC).

Pied Crow *Corvus albus*
Common visitor.
Colonised the northern Peninsula in the early 1980s and now well-established in Cape Town's suburbs and peri-urban areas, although it appears to be most common in winter. First recorded at the Reserve on 11 October 1984 when a party of seven over Rooikrans mobbed a Yellow-billed Kite. In 1985 up to five were present between 12 August and 8 October, ranging south to the Homestead. One on the boundary fence just north of Klaasjagersberg on 16 August 1993, two over the Link/Main Road junction on 30 April and one on the boundary fence near Scarborough on 19 August and on Circular Drive on 27 August 1995 (J Graham, C Spottiswoode) are the only other records from the period. The species has since become regular in the Reserve.

White-necked Raven *Corvus albicollis*
Rare breeding resident.
Two or three pairs range widely over the Reserve, and at least one (and probably more) nests here. Jenkins and van Zyl (2005) recorded nine nest sites in the 'Cape of Good Hope region' (see Jackal Buzzard). Most often seen at the southern tip of the Reserve, and along the northern boundary scavenging road casualties such as lizards and tortoises.

SHRIKES FAMILY LANIIDAE
Lesser Grey Shrike *Lanius minor*
Vagrant from Eurasia.
One record. One on telephone wires at Rooikrans on 18 April 1972 (ML). This thornveld species normally occurs no further south than about 29˚S and should have been heading to its northern hemisphere breeding grounds at this time. One at De Hoop Nature Reserve on 12 April 2013 (SARBN) would appear to be the only other southern Cape record.

Common Fiscal *Lanius collaris*
Uncommon but widespread breeding resident.
Found throughout the Reserve, its distribution largely determined by the availability of tall dead bushes that provide the perches from which the bird hunts its insect or small vertebrate prey. A female of the distinctively white-eyebrowed northern race *L. c. subcoronatus* was at Olifantsbos in September 1985 and an eyebrowed youngster there in November was presumably her offspring (Fraser and McMahon 1994a).

Red-backed Shrike *Lanius collurio*
Rare Eurasian summer migrant.
Four or five records. An immature/female by the road 2 km north of the Cape of Good Hope on 5 December 1984, and a similar (perhaps the same) bird on the southern arm of Circular Drive on 5 February 1985. An immature/female on the west coast just north of Olifantsbos Bay on 26 December 1985 was harassed by Cape Bulbuls (Fraser 1986b). Adult males were at the Link/Main Road junction on 27 December 1985 (O. von Kaschke) and at Olifantsbos on 6 November 1992 (Coats 1993). This is a high number of records for a species that is rare in the south-western Cape. Common in the savanna in the northeast of the country, but normally occurs only as far west as East London in the eastern Cape.

TITS FAMILY PARIDAE
Grey Tit *Parus afer*
Local vagrant.
One record. One calling from the escarpment at Olifantsbos on

1 January 1992 (G Underhill). A bird of dry, rocky areas and hillsides and, although fairly common north-east of Cape Town, is virtually unknown on the Peninsula.

SWALLOWS AND MARTINS FAMILY HIRUNDINIDAE

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

Common summer visitor and abundant passage migrant from Eurasia; rare in winter.

The species' abundance varies within and between years. Returning birds are noted on passage from mid-November, but numbers tend to be low or it may not be seen at all for the rest of the year. Numbers build up around New Year, however, and the bird is most abundant in late January-March when hundreds may be found all over the Reserve but concentrated along the coast feeding on kelp flies over the beach and around flowering Milkwood. By mid-March most have departed, although a few linger into April. Rare in winter: one at Cape Point on 5 August 1973; two flew in from the sea at Olifantsbos Bay on 21 July 1984; 2-3 at Rooikrans from 28 May-3 July 1985; one at the Cape of Good Hope on 3 August 1991.

Barn Swallows occasionally sit on the Reserve roads and pick invertebrates, including sandhoppers, from the tarmac. At Olifantsbos Bay they skim over the beach and catch small sandhoppers jumping in the air ahead of the rising tide, or settle to pick them off the sandy surface.

A bird showing the characteristics of the Middle Eastern race *H. r. transitiva* was mistnetted at Olifantsbos on 15 March 1987 (Fraser and McMahon 1987b).

White-throated Swallow *Hirundo albogularis*

Rare intra-African summer migrant.

Only recorded from Olifantsbos Bay: a "small party" in February 1972 (Anon 1972b [P. Tongue]), three on 14 November 1985, three on 6 November 2005 (G Kieswetter), and three (two adults and a juvenile) on 7 February 2013 (H Langley). This swallow is primarily associated with running freshwater, hence its scarcity at the Reserve and on the Peninsula as a whole.

Greater Striped Swallow *Hirundo cucullata*

Rare intra-African summer migrant.

Only a single record (1 January 1967) is given by ML, and the species became only marginally more numerous in 1984-96. In January 1986 six birds prospected a culvert on the Klaasjagersberg road; a pair at the same site in October 1990 did likewise. Four between the Cape Point car park and the old lighthouse on 20 November 1991. A common breeder on buildings elsewhere on the Peninsula.

Rock Martin *Hirundo fuligula*

Common and widespread breeding resident.

Forages over all vegetation types and in the lee of Milkwood thickets, cliffs and rocky outcrops, but is particularly numerous in strandveld and over the beaches when there is a kelp-fly hatch. In cold weather many birds sit on the tarmac to absorb heat; some have been seen picking sandhoppers off the road surface at Olifantsbos and the Cape of Good Hope. Breeds on buildings and in caves and under overhangs; nest-building has been recorded in September.

House Martin *Delichon urbica*
Rare summer migrant from Eurasia.
Three records. Singles in late summer at Smitswinkel and Rooikrans (B Rose), and one over Cape Point on 17 April 1994 (C Cohen, D Winter). Flies at high altitude with other aerial foragers, particularly swifts, and almost certainly more frequent at the Reserve than these records indicate.

Brown-throated Martin *Riparia paludicola*
Status uncertain; probably rare visitor or breeding resident.
A sighting in September 1978 is not supported by any details (Anon 1978). Recorded in small numbers since September 1993 at Buffels Bay and in the Buffels River valley, where there is suitable nesting habitat.

Black Saw-wing *Psalidoprocne holomelaena*
Rare visitor; has bred.
A pair nested in a streambank at Klaasjagersberg in December 1963 (ML, R Siegfried). The only other records are one at Rooikrans in December 1985 (Clark and Hensley 1986), one foraging briefly in the lee of a Milkwood at Olifantsbos on 14 December 1991, and a small flock inspecting potential nest sites in a road cutting just south of the Main Gate in November 2012 (P Ryan).

BULBULS FAMILY PYCNONOTIDAE
Cape Bulbul *Pycnonotus capensis*
Common breeding resident and, probably, visitor.
Largely confined to coastal thicket where loose parties of up 30 feed from fruiting Milkwood and other berry-bearing shrubs. Moves into fynbos to feed on nectar and associated insects at flowering Protea repens and, to a lesser extent, *Leucospermum conocarpodendron*. Occasionally catches sandhoppers on the dunes and beaches.

Sombre Greenbul *Andropadus importunes*
Local vagrant.
One record. Single at Klaasjagersberg on 28 November 1973 (H Langley). It is surprising that there have not been more sightings here, as the species frequents alien thickets and indigenous bush within a few kilometres of the Reserve boundary. Suitable patches of indigenous forest at Booi se Skerm and the coastal thicket that runs north from here to Batsata Cove might be expected to support this and other woodland species.

AFRICAN WARBLERS AND CROMBECS FAMILY MACROSPHENIDAE
Cape Grassbird *Sphenoeacus afer*
Common and widespread breeding resident.
A loud and conspicuous songster and one of the most characteristic species of the Reserve. Found in low densities in coastal thicket, shrubby fynbos, and restioveld and tussock marsh over *ca* 75 cm high (where, at one bird per hectare in five-year-old vegetation, it was the most numerous species; Fraser 1990). Absent only from the densest alien thickets, rockiest mountain slopes, and newly-burnt fynbos. Grassbird does not generally adapt to alien vegetation (Fraser 1997a), and frequent burning at *ca* five-year intervals to create management firebreaks dominated by restios benefits the species elsewhere in fynbos habitats (Richardson and Fraser 1995).

Long-billed Crombec *Sylvietta rufescens*
Rare visitor or resident.
The only records come from the alien thickets on the lower slopes of Vasco da Gama Peak. Single birds were present here on 30 April-23 July 1985, 20 February 1986, 27 April 1990 and 19 October 1992.

Even given the generally short life-expectancy of small passerines (the average Long-billed Crombec weighs 11 g), it is possible that the same individual accounted for all these sightings. The species is widespread in dry shrublands elsewhere in the south-western Cape, particularly along the west coast, but rare on the Peninsula (ABSC).

BUSH WARBLERS AND ALLIES FAMILY LOCUSTELLIDAE

African Sedge Warbler *Bradypterus baboecala*

Status uncertain; probably rare visitor.

Two records. Singles at the Homestead pond on 5 June 1992, and in the nearby lower Buffels River on 6 May 1994. Both these sites have small Bulrush beds and associated wetland vegetation that could support a resident pair or two of sedge warblers.

REED WARBLERS AND ALLIES FAMILY ACROCEPHALIDAE

Lesser Swamp Warbler *Acrocephalus gracilirostris*

Status uncertain; probably rare visitor.

One bird in the Bulrush patch at the Homestead pond in March 1990 is the only recent Reserve record, although it may occur more frequently here and in other patches at, for example, the Buffels River and Die Mond. Langley (1972) notes it from Die Mond and Olifantsbos where it is "seen or heard on a few occasions". ML describe it at the latter site as "Resident where conditions suitable...", but none was recorded there in 1984-96.

European Marsh Warbler *Acrocephalus palustris*

Rare Eurasian summer migrant.

One record of two birds. Two in the Olifantsbos *Leonotis* patch from 14 December 1991 to at least 2 February 1992, when they were mistnetted (Fraser and McMahon 1995d). These were the first records for the south-western Cape. Previously recorded 400 km to the east at Knysna on the south coast, where considered a vagrant (Dowsett-Lemaire and Dowsett 1987). It has since been seen at Helderberg Nature Reserve at Somerset West (Martin and Martin 1993) and may be more common in the western Cape than appreciated.

Icterine Warbler *Hippolais icterina*

Vagrant from Eurasia.

One record. The first Icterine Warbler for the south-western Cape was mistnetted in alien thicket at Olifantsbos on 20 November 1985 (Fraser 1986b). The date matches the species' peak arrival period in the southern half of its tropical African wintering region (ASAB), but it is rarely recorded south of the Orange River. This individual was, therefore, some 1 000 km southwest of its normal range.

WHITE-EYES FAMILY ZOSTEROPIDAE

Cape White-eye *Zosterops pallidus*

Common but localised breeding resident and, probably, visitor.

Occurs in pairs or small parties in coastal thicket, alien vegetation and, occasionally, in mature inland fynbos (notably at flowering Protea repens). Largest flocks (up to 60) recorded in wooded gardens at Klaasjagersberg and, formerly, in the oaks and gums at Theefontein. A bird ringed at the latter site was recaptured at Olifantsbos after the aliens at Theefontein were burnt out. The oldest ringed bird is 5 years 4 months.

CISTICOLAS, APALISES AND ALLIES FAMILY CISTICOLIDAE

Grey-backed Cisticola *Cisticola subruficapilla*

Common and widespread breeding resident.

The classic LBJ of the Reserve, easy to detect by its characteristic call and occurring anywhere that there are short bushes. Avoids only

shrubless, low-growing restioveld and the densest alien and indigenous coastal thickets. Highest densities occur in sparse coastal thicket. Breeds August-December.

Levaillant's Cisticola *Cisticola tinniens*
Uncommon and localised breeding resident.
One of the most habitat-specific birds of the Reserve, found only in Bulrush patches and in tall "Restionaceous Tussock Marsh" with uniform stands of *Elegia*. Occurs in pairs in territories that are vigorously defended. As tussock marsh is the vegetation type that recovers most quickly after burning, Le Vaillant's Cisticola tends to be the species deprived of its favoured habitat for the least time after a fire, returning to resprouting restio beds within 18 months of a burn (Fraser 1990).

Neddicky *Cisticola fulvicapilla*
Rare breeding resident.
An enigmatic species whose population fluctuates for no readily apparent reason, although veld age might be important. ML describe it as "Resident, but rarely seen during the past few years [i.e., the early 1970s]." There was one record in September 1978 but the decline implied by ML culminated in its complete disappearance from the Reserve by at least 1984, when none was found despite much searching. One in Die Kloof at Olifantsbos on 7 July 1985 was the forerunner of a gradual, if slow and limited, recolonisation of the Reserve. This bird was seen regularly until April 1986 when it was joined by another. On 22 June 1986 a pair was found on the northern outcrop of the west-coast escarpment opposite the end of the Die Mond track. One or two birds were seen at these sites regularly until October 1991 when a third pair was found just south of Skaife. Since then, the species has established and been recorded at a number of rocky sites south to Buffels Bay and Gifkommetjie. A pair in marshy riparian vegetation at Die Mond on 20 September 1990 was, at the time, beyond their Reserve range but, more interestingly, in atypical habitat (Fraser and McMahon 1990c).

Zitting Cisticola *Cisticola juncidis*
Status uncertain; probably rare visitor or resident.
Four records. Single birds in damp areas dominated by alien grasses (Theefontein, 6 June 1987; Olifantsbos, 12 March 1990 and 30 March 1995), and one in low-growing restios at Circular Drive on 22 April 1995 (Ryan and Hockey 1995). Although most reports of short-tailed cisticolas flushed from restios here and near Sirkelsvlei and ascribed to this species are more likely to be Cloud Cisticolas, there may at times be a very small resident population of Zitting in this habitat.

Cloud Cisticola *Cisticola textrix*
Uncommon and localised breeding resident.
Found in short restioveld and tussock marsh around Circular Drive (the best place to see them, with up to six calling birds at a time), and near Sirkelsvlei from about one year after a fire. At 0.659 birds per hectare in "Restionaceous Plateau Fynbos and Restionaceous Tussock Marsh", it was the most abundant species in this habitat (P Ryan). Unless flushed from short vegetation they are generally evident only when performing their display flights. These take place (or are detected) mainly in August-September, less frequently in February-March. Adults carrying nest material have been seen in April (C Spottiswoode) and feeding young in May (J Graham). The population at the Reserve is unusual as the species typically inhabits grassland, not fynbos (ABSC).

Spotted Prinia *Prinia maculosa*
Common and widespread breeding resident.
A noisy and conspicuous species, easy to see and hear. Found in coastal thicket and bushy fynbos; absent only from the shortest, shrubless restioveld and newly-burnt vegetation. Occasionally forages on heaps of rotting seaweed at Olifantsbos Bay. Breeding recorded in August-December.

Bar-throated Apalis *Apalis thoracica*
Rare visitor or resident.
Two records. One mistnetted and colour-ringed at Skaife on 31 October 1984 was seen here and at Olifantsbos until 28 December 1985, on one occasion joining about 30 other bushbirds to mob a large Puff Adder *Bitis arietans*. The only other confirmed record is of a singleton at Olifantsbos on 6 June 1990, although there are anecdotal reports from other localities, including Bordjiesdrif and Smitswinkel. This species is scarce on the Peninsula, but as it is common in scrub and woodland elsewhere, including some suburban gardens, it may fail to attract the attention of visiting birders or be noted by them at the Reserve.

LARKS AND FINCHLARKS FAMILY ALAUDIDAE
Cape Clapper Lark *Mirafra apiata*
Uncommon breeding resident.
Most obvious in spring when performing its characteristic display flight. Tends to occur most commonly in the low-lying, restio-dominated plains in the first few years after a fire, but also recorded in sparse older fynbos on gently-sloping rocky hillsides.

Grey-backed Sparrowlark *Eremopterix verticalis*
Local vagrant.
One record. A single male, probably the same individual, was flushed from short restios along the northern and western arms of Circular Drive on 23 April, 9 July and 11 October 1984. Very rare on the Peninsula (although sporadic and limited influxes do occur), but quite common in the west-coast wheatlands north of Cape Town, primarily in summer (ABSC).

THRUSHES AND ALETHES FAMILY TURDIDAE
Southern Olive Thrush *Turdus olivaceous*
Uncommon and localised breeding resident.
Almost entirely restricted to alien thickets and becoming increasingly scarce at the Reserve as this habitat is removed. Found at Klaasjagerberg, Perdekloof, in *Acacia cyclops* on the slopes of Vasco da Gama Peak and, occasionally, at the Homestead and in indigenous coastal thicket at Buffels Bay, Skaife and Gifkommetjie. Formerly occurred in mixed-species alien infestations at Olifantsbos and Theefontein. Tends to be rather secretive, with its most typical feature, its fluty song, given towards dusk.

CHATS AND OLD WORLD FLYCATCHERS FAMILY MUSCICAPIDAE
Cape Rock Thrush *Monticola rupestris*
Uncommon and widespread breeding resident.
Occurs singly or in pairs in rocky areas along the coast and inland. In fynbos it frequents open habitat in preference to old vegetation, and moves into previously unoccupied areas after fire. Pairs are resident at a number of scattered sites including Skaife, Olifantsbos and the Cape Point car park, but even here they are not entirely dependable. An immature colour-ringed at Olifantsbos in January 1985 was seen 9 km away on the other side of the Reserve near Venus Pool almost

five years later (K. Preston).

Sentinel Rock Thrush *Monticola explorator*
Formerly rare and localised breeding resident, now probably absent.
In 1984-96 there were five pairs at the Reserve, with territories at Menskop, Noupoortjie, the slopes of Wolfberg, near Anvil Rock, and between there and Kanonkop. They shifted their ranges according to the age of the veld, preferring one- or two-year-old fynbos with extensive exposed rock and outcrops. Nests were found in August and recently-fledged young in November.

It is thought that there are now no Sentinel Rock Thrushes here. It has become rare elsewhere on the Peninsula and is sparsely distributed in the south-western Cape as a whole. The Reserve birds were unusual in that the species is traditionally associated with high mountainous areas.

Fiscal Flycatcher *Sigelus silens*
Uncommon localised breeding resident.
Confined to coastal thicket and, in lower numbers, alien vegetation. Most patches of Milkwood and other broad-leaved coastal shrubs support a pair or two and there are also pairs at the Homestead, Klaasjagersberg and Perdekloof. A female in low dune-fynbos vegetation on the southern arm of Circular Drive in March 1992 and a road casualty on the Link Road mid-way across the Reserve in July 1993 were distinctly out of habitat. A juvenile ringed at Olifantsbos in December 1990 was found at Soetwater, 12 km north, six months later. It probably left its natal area as a result of a fire there in February 1991 (Fraser and McMahon 1992b). Breeding has been recorded in August-December.

Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*
Rare Eurasian summer migrant.
Two records. One in gardens at Klaasjagersberg, 21-26 March 1974 (H Langley); one in the oak trees and alien thicket at Olifantsbos, 18 February-19 March 1986.

Dusky Flycatcher *Muscicapa adusta*
Common but localised breeding resident.
Confined to alien woodland and gardens and probably occurs only at Klaasjagersberg and Perdekloof. Up to 12 birds have been counted at the former site. Breeding has been recorded in November-December.

Cape Robin-Chat *Cossypha caffra*
Common, widespread breeding resident.
Most common in coastal thicket, but occurs in all vegetation types as long as there are some tallish (1.5 m or more) shrubs. Absent only from newly-burnt fynbos and from short restioveld and tussock marsh. Has been noted feeding on the beach and bathing in rock pools (Skead 1966). Cape Robin-Chat is an accomplished mimic; as well as a broad selection of the vocalisations of other bushbirds, some Reserve robins also include in their repertoires the calls of Common Greenshank and African Black Oystercatcher. Breeding recorded in August-October.

Brown Scrub-Robin *Erythropygia signata*
Vagrant from elsewhere in southern Africa.
One record. One collected at Smitswinkel Bay on 14 July 1906 (Taylor 1909). A bird of evergreen coastal forest, Brown Scrub-Robin does not occur much west of Port Elizabeth and is not known to wander. A re-examination of the specimen would be useful, although

the record is included in R7 without qualification.

Karoo Scrub-Robin *Erythropygia coryphaeus*
Status uncertain; probably rare visitor and occasional resident. Has bred.
Classified as "resident" by ML. There have been very few more recent records, but as it is such a familiar and common species elsewhere, birders may not think it worth recording if they see one at the Reserve. Sightings in the 1980s and '90s were of individuals at Gifkommetjie (September 1984), Skaife (21 January 1985 and 7 April 1988), Kommetjieberg (5 February 1985), Menskop (March 1991), Bordjiesrif (20 September 1991; M Mugglestone), Cape Maclear (4 September 1992), and Blouberg-strand (10 December 1994). These suggest that the species is a rare visitor and/or that there is a very small resident population. Breeding has not been confirmed since November 1973 when a nest was found at Rooikrans (H Langley). Generally very scarce on the Peninsula, but common in strandveld and renosterveld just to the north of Cape Town.

African Stonechat *Saxicola torquata*
Formerly rare breeding resident, now probably extinct.
Described as a "common resident" in the 1970s by ML, and seen regularly at a number of sites in the early 1980s (J Graham, P Ryan). Two pairs were seen with sufficient regularity along the Main Road between the Olifantsbos and Circular Drive junctions in 1984-85 to suggest that they were resident, but even these proved unpredictable. In 1986-96 single sightings of pairs were made at Theefontein, Anvil Rock, Brightwater Gate and near the Homestead. Breeding was recorded in August-September.

There have been no records since 2000, so this distinctive chat appears to be extinct at the Reserve (H Langley, P Ryan). It may also have disappeared from the entire Peninsula over the same time period for no readily apparent reason.

Mountain Chat *Oenanthe monticola*
Local vagrant.
One record. A single bird on Circular Drive in July 1986 (J McFarlane). This species had not previously been recorded on the Peninsula although it does occur elsewhere in the south-western Cape, most commonly along the dry northern edges of the Karoo, but rarely in the southern mountain chain (ABSC).

Capped Wheatear *Oenanthe pileata*
Local vagrant.
One on Circular Drive in May 2005 (B Rose). A common resident of the farmland north and east of Cape Town, particularly the wheat fields of the Swartland and Rûens (ABSC), but probably not otherwise recorded on the Peninsula.

Familiar Chat *Cercomela familiaris*
Uncommon, widespread breeding resident.
This demure, wing-flicking chat occurs in singles or pairs along the shoreline and inland wherever there are extensive areas of exposed rocks and boulders. Breeding has been recorded in September-December. One pair nested in the coiled rope in a life-saving box in 1974. Fortunately no one's life needed saving at the time and the birds reared three young (H Langley).

STARLINGS FAMILY STURNIDAE
Red-winged Starling *Onychognathus morio*
Common breeding resident and visitor.
Widespread, but generally avoids the Smitswinkel Flats and other

level, featureless areas. An opportunistic species with a catholic diet. Forages everywhere from the rocky intertidal (feeding on small winkles *Afrolittorina* and sea lice *Ligia*), in coastal thicket (various fruits and insects), stands of *Acacia cyclops* (fruits) and mature fynbos (nectar of *Mimetes fimbriifolius* and *Leucospermum conocarpodendron* and, on warm days, associated insects such as protea beetles *Cetoniidae*. Fills the niche of the oxpecker *Buphagus sp* by gleaning ticks from Cape Mountain Zebra (Mangold 1988), Bontebok and Eland (L Fraser). Birds at Cape Point car park pick insects from the radiator grills and windscreens of motor vehicles, and scrounge titbits from visitors.

Occurs in flocks of 5-400, the highest numbers being found at fruiting *Acacia cyclops*. Roosts communally in the disused military buildings on Vasco da Gama Peak and on cliffs. Ringing has shown that some birds are site-faithful while others travel widely (Oatley and Fraser 1992). A chick ringed at Klaasjagersberg was caught by a cat in Simon's Town two years later; an adult from Olifantsbos moved 13 km to Glencairn. The Red-winged Starling's diet and peregrinations contribute to the spread of alien *A. cyclops,* whose undigested seeds occur in 94% of their droppings and regurgitated pellets (Fraser 1992). Breeds from November-March, nesting in cliff cavities and buildings and, at Klaasjagersberg, in nestboxes.

Wattled Starling *Creatophora cinerea*
Uncommon and irregular visitor.
First recorded (one bird) near Brightwater in April 1962 (ML). A flock of 60 joined European Starlings on the beach at Olifantsbos on 8 May 1964 with "single birds occasionally seen" thereafter. There were seven at the Homestead in October 1983, but most sightings have been in the European Starling flock on the beach at Olifantsbos Bay (where Wattled should not be confused with pale juvenile European Starlings). Birds were recorded here in December 1972 (one); 20 January 1985 (one); 25 March (three), May (one) and October (one) 1986; 28 February 1992 (one); and 26 October 1994 (four). Elsewhere, Wattled Starlings have been noted at Cape Point (five in October 1985), Rooikrans (three on 21 June 1986 with a recent arrival of European and Red-winged Starlings feeding on *Acacia cyclops* fruits), Skaife (one going to roost on the cliffs with Red-winged Starlings on 16 April 1987), and parties of up to six coming to roost in the Homestead pond Bulrushes on 17 April 1989 (P Hockey). The species is abundant in the west coast strandveld north of Cape Town and is highly nomadic.

European Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*
Alien; common localised visitor and rare breeding resident.
Two or three pairs nest at Klaasjagersberg. A flock of up to 400 at Olifantsbos Bay feeds predominantly amongst rotting kelp on the beach, with occasional forays into fruiting Milkwood and other berry-bearing shrubs. Smaller numbers feed on many of the Reserve's beaches and on the lawns at the Homestead and Buffels Bay. The European Starling was introduced to the Cape by Cecil Rhodes in 1899 as part of his largely incomprehensible "amenity improvement" programme (Brooke 1986), which was essentially an undertaking to make the Cape look as much like his native England as possible.

SUNBIRDS FAMILY NECTARINIIDAE
Orange-breasted Sunbird *Anthobaphes violacea*
Common breeding resident and, probably, visitor.
Endemic to the Fynbos Biome and a classic bird of fynbos vegetation at the Reserve. Flowering food plants at which the sunbirds gather in large numbers are *Mimetes fimbriifolius, M. hirtus, Leucospermum conocarpodendron, Watsonia zeyheri, Erica gilva, E. plukenetti* (100 feeding in a patch at Sirkelsvlei on 14 May 1993), and *Protea repens*.

Other food plants, such as *E. phylicafolia, E. mammosa, E. curviflora* and *E. cerinthoides* tend to be less abundant and more scattered; the birds exploiting them are correspondingly more thinly distributed. Also recorded feeding from *Saltera sarcocolla, Brunia abrotanoides, Crassula coccinea* and *Lobelia sp*.

Possibly as a consequence of the burning of so much fynbos, this species became more numerous in the summers of 1991 and 1992 at the Olifantsbos flowering *Leonotis leonurus*, a habitat in which mistnetting and observations had previously shown it to be very rare, in contrast to Malachite and Southern Double-collared Sunbirds (Fraser and McMahon 1992). Ringed birds have moved up to 5 km within the Reserve, but none has been found outside it. Breeds in July-October.

Amethyst Sunbird *Chalcomitra amethystina*
Vagrant from eastern South Africa.
One record of two birds. A male and a female at Cape Point on 18 December 1988 (Barnes 1989) constituted the first record for the Cape Peninsula. An unusual location and habitat for this woodland species which, in the 1980s at least, generally occurred only as far west as Swellendam. The Reserve record was the early forerunner of sightings in the following decades from Robertson, Betty's Bay and Helderberg and, more recently, the Peninsula (where it has bred since at least 2006; Ryan 2009), as the species underwent a westward range expansion, mainly into gardens and alien woodland. It has not, however, reappeared at the Reserve.

Malachite Sunbird *Nectarinia famosa*
Uncommon breeding resident and abundant localised visitor.
Occurs at low densities in recently-burnt fynbos and ranges widely to take nectar from the flowers of resprouting species such as *Erica cerinthoides* and *Saltera sarcocolla*. In older veld, proteaceous shrubs, notably *Leucospermum conocarpodendron* and *Protea repens,* are visited in winter and spring, respectively. *Watsonia spp* are also exploited inland, and *Salvia africana-lutea* along the coast. The greatest concentrations occur in December and March when hundreds converge on flowering *Leonotis leonurus* at Olifantsbos where, e.g., 202 were ringed of an estimated 540 there on 5-7 December 1987 (Underhill and Fraser 1989). Even larger numbers were suspected in December 1991 when 187 were caught in 48 m of mistnet over two days. On 28 March 1992, 127 were ringed, of which only six were recaptured the next day, indicating high turnover. Numbers at the *Leonotis* patch greatly exceed the estimated Reserve population and recoveries of ringed birds from 15-160 km away indicate how far the birds travel after visiting Olifantsbos (McMahon and Fraser 1988, Fraser *et al*. 1989, Fraser and McMahon 1989c). This, in turn, may reflect the extent of the catchment - that area which "supplies" the birds. The oldest ringed bird is ten years.

In the breeding season (August-November) the species occurs where there are suitable shrubs in which to nest, such as medium or tall *Proteaceae*, riparian scrub, and garden ornamentals at Klaasjagersberg.

Southern Double-collared Sunbird *Cinnyris chalybeus*
Common breeding resident and visitor.
One of the most common birds in coastal thicket. Predominantly an insectivore in this habitat it will, however, take nectar from *Lycium spp, Salvia africana-lutea*, and *Chasmanthe aethiopica*. Also occurs in large numbers with Malachite Sunbirds at flowering *Leonotis* in summer and autumn. Rather uncommon in inland fynbos, but does visit flowering *Erica gilva* and, to a lesser extent, *Protea repens*.

Eucalyptus spp blooms are much favoured, and the bird is common in the Klaasjagersberg gardens. Probably wanders extensively in response to the phenology of its food plants; ringed birds have been recorded moving 5 km within the Reserve and one moved 10 km northeast from Olifantsbos to Simon's Town. The oldest ringed bird is 7 years and 9 months. Breeds in August-October.

[Greater Double-collared Sunbird *Cinnyris afer***]**
Unconfirmed vagrant from eastern South Africa.
Loide-Abbott (1969) reports that in July 1967 "Greater and Lesser [Southern] [double-collared sunbirds] were seen simultaneously at Buffels Bay, size difference was quite marked." As it is not stated if males were seen, and as other records in this report demonstrate unfamiliarity with local species, confusion with female Malachite seems likely and the record is considered unacceptable. A bird of forest edge and riverine bush, Greater Double-collared Sunbird is rarely recorded west of Riviersonderend although, like other sunbirds, it may be inclined to wander.

Dusky Sunbird *Cinnyris fuscus*
Rare vagrant from further north in the Cape.
At least 10, some apparently intent on heading even further south, between the old and new lighthouses at Cape Point with a gathering of 100 Orange-breasted, Southern Double-collared and Malachite Sunbirds in sparse coastal thicket on 22 April 2007 (J Graham, CBN). A scarce visitor to the south-western Cape from Namaqualand and the Karoo.

SUGARBIRDS FAMILY PROMEROPIDAE
Cape Sugarbird *Promerops cafer*
Common breeding resident and visitor.
A characteristic species of middle-aged and old shrubby fynbos, its frequency and abundance dictated by the flowering of its food plants: *Mimetes fimbriifolius, M. hirtus* and *Leucospermum conocarpodendron* in winter and spring, and *Protea lepidocarpodendron* and, particularly, *P. repens* in winter. Scores of sugarbirds may gather at stands of these flowers, notably *L. conocarpodendron* on the slopes of Vasco da Gama Peak and *P. repens* on Teeberg. Summer-flowering *Erica gilva* and, to a lesser extent, *Leonotis leonurus*, are also visited by sugarbirds. When there are no food plants in bloom the birds are scarce or absent.

Ringed birds have been found to travel extensively: one moved 9 km south down the Reserve; four others from Teeberg made their way to Kirstenbosch, 32 km north (Fraser and McMahon 1989, Fraser *et al.* 1989, Oschadleus and Fraser 1988). Breeds in May-September.

WEAVERS, BISHOPS AND WIDOWS FAMILY PLOCEIDAE
Cape Weaver *Ploceus capensis*
Uncommon visitor; formerly bred.
In 1973 there were 15 occupied nests at the Homestead, 22 at Klaasjagersberg and 11 at Olifantsbos (H Langley). A male half built a nest at the last-named site in August 1984 but abandoned it and nesting no longer takes place there following the removal of the alien trees. A small colony at Teeberg has disappeared for the same reason. There were eight nests at Klaasjagersberg in September 1984 but no counts have been made anywhere in the Reserve subsequently and it may not still breed here.

Singles or small parties are recorded at any time of year in a variety of habitats, but peak numbers occur in November and December, with flocks of up to 60 moving down the coast or lingering briefly to feed (Fraser 1987). Remarkably, of 29 birds ringed at Olifantsbos, three have been found elsewhere: at Red Hill above Simon's Town, at Kraaifontein on the Cape Flats, and the most distant at Velddrif on the west coast 172 km to the north (Fraser *et al.* 1990).

Southern Masked Weaver *Ploceus velatus*
Status uncertain; probably rare visitor, has bred.
A pair "breeding among a colony of Cape Weavers", presumably at Klaasjagersberg, in 1961 constituted the first record for the Peninsula (Middlemiss 1963a). Four birds at Klaasjagersberg in August 1962 (ML) were the last at the Reserve until 1985 when males were reportedly collecting nest material at Klaasjagersberg and the Homestead in June and August (K Foster). Breeding was not confirmed and there have been no subsequent records. The species is numerous elsewhere on the Peninsula, mainly at watercourses and dams.

Red-billed Quelea *Quelea quelea*
Rare, irruptive visitor.
A major influx into the south-western Cape early in 2007 (Oschadleus 2007) saw a number of queleas reaching the Reserve. On 28 April a small group was at Buffels Bay; on 30 April five groups totalling 200 birds were on the ridge between the old and new lighthouses, with six at Cape Point car park, 40 at Buffels Bay and six on Circular Drive (B Rose). Said to be the most abundant bird species on the planet, Red-billed Queleas are found throughout Africa in dry thornveld and farmland. They undertake large-scale movements in response to drought and food availability, but very rarely occur in the south-western Cape.

Southern Red Bishop *Euplectes orix*
Uncommon and irregular visitor.
Described as "rare" by ML and recorded by them only at Die Mond and, in February 1974, on the Link Road (a male and three females). There were no records from 1984-88, so the arrival of 30 birds at Olifantsbos on 27 March 1989 was notable. These fed amongst flowering and seeding *Leonotis leonurus*. The flock increased to 80 by the middle of March and, in addition to feeding on *Leonotis* and restio seeds, caught sandhoppers amongst the rotting kelp and hawked kelp flies 1-2 m above the beach, two unusual feeding strategies for birds that are essentially granivorous (Fraser and McMahon 1989c). By 1 May 1989, numbers had declined to 24 and the last two were seen on 29 June. There were no further records until 23 January 1992 when 15 were found at Olifantsbos. Ten of these remained until 28 March and four until 6 September; a single ringed bird lingered until 5 October. In the past few years, flocks of up to 60 have been seen in February-May at Rooikrans and Circular Drive (B Rose). The factors which precipitate these influxes into the Reserve are unknown but may include drought, food shortage elsewhere or overspill from more traditional habitat following good breeding success. Alternatively, it may be a simple case of random post-breeding dispersal.

Yellow Bishop *Euplectes capensis*
Common and widespread breeding resident.
Typically found in inland and coastal fynbos where it feeds on restio and other seeds. In the non-breeding season the birds form flocks of 5-45 that move extensively around the Reserve. The flocks break up in spring when the males establish territories in tussock marsh, seepage areas and riparian vegetation.

White-winged Widowbird *Euplectes albonotatus*
Vagrant from north-eastern southern Africa.
One record. A winter-plumaged male near the top viewing spot at Cape Point on 22 April 2007 (J Graham) was the first for the south-western Cape. An extremely unusual record, although there were other out-of-range occurrences of the species at the same time further north in South Africa, indicating some degree of dry-season movement.

WAXBILLS FAMILY ESTRILDIDAE
Common Waxbill *Estrilda astrild*
Common breeding resident.
Found most often in grassy coastal areas and in Bulrush patches, although itinerant parties occur almost anywhere on the Reserve, notably the Smitswinkel Flats. Flocks range from 10-80 birds. Adults feeding young seen in November.

African Quailfinch *Ortygospiza atricollis*
Vagrant from elsewhere in southern Africa
A series of records of small numbers of birds in the 1970s, although further details are unavailable (H Langley). Widespread in eastern South Africa, but probably only a rare resident in damp grasslands in the south-western Cape (ABSC). Nomadic in the non-breeding season, extending its range in response to rainfall (R7).

WHYDAHS FAMILY VIDUIDAE
Pin-tailed Whydah *Vidua macroura*
Rare visitor; has bred at least once.
"Resident but not always obvious" (ML). In 1984-96 there were only a handful of records and it is difficult to speculate upon what factors determine the species' presence or absence here. In early December 1985 there were two males on Circular Drive and a male at Olifantsbos on 20-23 December 1985 and 16 January 1986. All subsequent records came from the latter site: a male on 15 August 1990; a pair on 11th and two males and a female on 14 December 1991; and a male on 14 January 1992. Two youngsters there in January 1990 represent the only confirmed breeding record. Pin-tailed Whydah is a brood-parasite that lays its eggs in the nest of other species, most usually Common Waxbill.

SPARROWS FAMILY PASSERIDAE
House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*
Rare alien breeding resident and common, but irregular, visitor.
Resident at Klaasjagersberg, although breeding did not take place there until the mid-1970s. Its presence and numbers probably depended largely on feedstuffs given to horses and poultry; the population was likely reduced by the removal of the horses in the 1980s and is subject to the whims of the Reserve staff in respect of the latter.

The sparrows' presence and numbers fluctuate elsewhere on the Reserve. Presumed post-breeding dispersal of large numbers of birds has been observed, a phenomenon probably unnoticed anywhere that the species is common and apparently resident. There were influxes in the autumns of 1985, '86 and '87, with flocks of 1-34 moving down the west coast in the early morning, generally on very windy days. On 28 March 1985, for example, a total of 237 House Sparrows flew south past Skaife into a gale-force south-easterly in 80 minutes (Fraser 1985c). In March-April the following year, passage was again noted, with a peak of 126 birds in two hours in 22 April. On 20 April 2013 similar movements into a strong southeaster were recorded, with flocks of 30 at Olifantsbos and 15, 75 and two of 10 at Cape Point. The biggest flock settled briefly in

scrub before flying off towards the new lighthouse at the very tip of the Peninsula (J Graham).

The coincidence of timing and conditions of these observations, albeit almost 30 years apart, suggests that such movements may occur regularly in autumn. They are also perhaps the source of birds that intermittently arrive and breed at the Homestead and Cape Point. Up to 15 frequented the latter site throughout 1986, but in some years they are absent. A pair nested at Skaife in 1991. An interesting observation was of five feeding with Cape Siskins in “natural veld” near the Cape Point car park in August 1995 (C Cohen, D Winter). The House Sparrow was introduced to South Africa in the late nineteenth century and is now the country's most widespread alien bird (Brooke 1986).

Cape Sparrow *Passer melanurus*
Rare visitor; has bred.
Formerly resident in very small numbers at Klaasjagersberg but rarely seen elsewhere; declined in the mid 1980s. ML note "A few resident pairs at Olifantsbos" in the 1970s and there were "several pairs and old nests" at Skaife in April 1980 (Brooke and Rebelo 1980). The last breeding record (a nest with eggs) at Olifantsbos appears to have been in October 1983 and the last bird in that area was a male briefly at Skaife in June 1984.

Southern Grey-headed Sparrow *Passer diffusus*
Rare visitor.
Three records of five birds. Two at Bordjiesrif in 2003 (J Graham), one at Cape Point on 24 October 2009 (P Cardwell), and two at Olifantsbos on an unrecorded recent date (J Graham). A recent coloniser the south-western Cape, first breeding in the region in 1983 (ABSC). Now increasingly common and resident around Cape Town (R7).

WAGTAILS, PIPITS AND LONGCLAWS FAMILY MOTACILLIDAE

African Pied Wagtail *Motacilla agiump*
Vagrant from northern and eastern South Africa.
One record. One at Buffels Bay on 31 October-1 November 2011 (SARBN, CBN). An unusual record of a distinctive, generally sedentary species whose range extends no nearer than the coastal eastern Cape.

Cape Wagtail *Motacilla capensis*
Common breeding resident and visitor.
Numerous along the beaches, particularly where rotting, storm-cast seaweed has attracted kelp flies. Also found at the margins of inland freshwater bodies and on lawns at the Homestead, Buffels Bay and Klaasjagersberg. Highest count 70 at Olifantsbos Bay in June 1991. There are small roosts in the Bulrush patches at the Homestead and Olifantsbos. One ringed at the latter site was recovered seven months later at Scarborough, 8 km north.

Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava*
Vagrant from Eurasia.
One record. A male at Olifantsbos Bay on 12-13 May 1987 (O von Kaschke). A late date for this scarce summer visitor to the south-western Cape.

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*
Vagrant from Europe.
One record. One at the Homestead pond on 5 April 1989 was seen intermittently there until 18th (Fraser and McMahon 1989b). The bird came in to roost in the cedars each evening and was twitched by

many local birders at this time or first thing in the morning before it left to forage. This was the first record for the south-western Cape and about the tenth for South Africa. Grey Wagtail breeds in northern Europe, some of the population migrating south to central Africa in winter. The Homestead bird was presumably another victim of reverse migration.

African Pipit *Anthus cinnamomeus*
Vagrant from further north in southern Africa.
One record. One near Dias Beacon on 11 October 1992 displayed the characteristics of the north-western Grassveld Pipit *A. c. grotei*, being pure white underneath (matching, e.g., Sinclair *et al.* 1993, p. 352). This race is known to be a winter visitor to the northern Cape from Namibia and Botswana, and the Reserve bird arrived after a north-westerly gale that also brought in a Pectoral Sandpiper. African Pipit of the race *A. c. rufuloides* is fairly common in grassy habitat elsewhere on the Peninsula but is another of a surprising number of local species that has apparently not occurred at the Reserve.

Plain-backed Pipit *Anthus leucophrys*
Uncommon breeding resident and visitor.
A few birds probably resident in short, sparse, old fynbos, but the highest numbers are recorded in the few months following a burn. In this period Plain-backed Pipits occur in any fynbos habitat, but become increasingly localised as the vegetation recovers. After one or two years they are largely restricted to short restioveld (notably on the northern arm of Circular Drive) and those rocky, well-drained areas in which regrowth has been slow. Loose flocks of 10-12 have been recorded in vegetation up to two years old; 2-6 are more usual elsewhere and at other successional stages. In January-April 1994 and in the same period in 1995 up to 24, including young still being fed by their parents, foraged on the beach at Olifantsbos Bay, with smaller numbers at Skaife beach. The birds caught kelp flies amongst decaying seaweed. One was seen foraging on the Buffels Bay lawns in May 1995 (B Rose). Nest-building has been recorded in December.

Long-billed Pipit *Anthus similis*
Status uncertain; probably rare temporary resident and visitor.
Recorded near Sirkelsvlei (one in February 1986) and on the northern arm of Circular Drive (one on 8 December 1990, three in June 1992, two in May 1993). Probably occurs most often in the early post-fire period, but likely to be under-recorded, not least because of confusion with Plain-backed Pipit.

Orange-throated Longclaw *Macronyx capensis*
Uncommon breeding resident and, probably, visitor.
Found in highest densities in recently-burnt restioveld but becomes increasingly rare as the vegetation ages. Occasionally appears in coastal grasslands and has been seen feeding amongst dried kelp on the high tide line, in fresh kelp, and in the rocky intertidal at Olifantsbos Bay. Apparently much more common in the past, Langley (1973a), for example, recording 35 between the Main Road and Brightwater in March 1972. Such high numbers have not been recorded for many years, probably as a consequence of reduced grazing pressure and changes in management priorities that have reverted to restoring and maintaining fynbos rather than creating artificial grazing for introduced large mammals. Breeding noted in November.

FINCHES, CANARIES, SISKINS AND BUNTINGS FAMILY FRINGILLIDAE

Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*

Local alien vagrant.

One record. A female at Klaasjagersberg frequented chicken runs, lawns and pine trees from February-August 1986 (D Clark, Fraser 1987a). A European species, introduced by Cecil Rhodes to his Groot Schuur estate near Cape Town in 1897 (Brooke 1986). Although it has crept slowly south down the Peninsula to Tokai and Hout Bay, Chaffinch numbers have remained low and its range restricted. The Reserve record remains the furthest from the point of introduction, but despite suitable habitat (alien trees and gardens) it has not established here. The recent establishment of Chaffinch as a breeding species on the mid-Peninsula at places such as Fish Hoek (CBN) has been attributed to the clearance of pine and other alien trees from its more traditional range.

Cape Canary *Serinus canicollis*

Uncommon breeding resident and common visitor.

Flocks of 10-200 recorded in October-December, feeding on the seeds of grasses, *Senecio elegans* and other annuals on the coast at Olifantsbos, Black Rocks, Buffels Bay and the Cape of Good Hope, and in areas from which aliens have recently been cleared. Flocks of 5-10 also occur in recently-burnt inland fynbos. Becomes very scarce in late summer and autumn. A bird ringed at Olifantsbos in November 1985 and found 80 km east in Caledon the following February indicates how far this typically nomadic species may wander (Fraser 1986c). Newly-fledged young have been seen in September.

Brimstone Canary *Crithagra sulphurata*

Uncommon visitor; probably breeds.

Generally confined to coastal thicket, which it visits especially in autumn to feed on the buds, flowers and berries of *Lycium* shrubs. Parties of 2-30+ have been seen at Olifantsbos. Tends to avoid fynbos proper, but makes the occasional sortie to seepage vegetation and to flowering Protea repens (for nectar) in midwinter. Very scarce in mid-summer.

Yellow Canary *Crithagra flaviventris*

Uncommon visitor.

"A common resident" according to ML. In 1984-96 recorded rather sporadically, although in most months. The majority occur in October and November with parties of up to 12 on the coast. These birds appear to be on passage, moving along the coastal belt and stopping only briefly to forage. Singing males have been noted in spring but breeding has not been confirmed. The very few "inland" records include three on Circular Drive in November 1985, when there was a small influx to the Reserve.

[White-throated Canary *Crithagra albogularis***]**

Unconfirmed local vagrant.

One "noted on a field card of the Cape Bird Club" (ML) pre-1969. No further details are available. The species is rare on the Peninsula and there have been no subsequent records from the Reserve. As with a number of other species reported in the past, the apparent sighting of a bird that an observer knows is common elsewhere can result in casual or dismissive identification without appreciating its local rarity and affording it closer scrutiny. On this basis, it is probably safer to consider this report unconfirmed.

Cape Siskin *Crithagra totta*
Locally common, present all year; probably breeds.
This species is endemic to the Fynbos Biome, and the Reserve is one of the most reliable spots to twitch it. Although sparsely and unpredictably distributed in inland fynbos, where rocky areas in recently-burnt fynbos appear to be favoured, it is almost invariably present in small numbers along the cliff edge and short cliff-top vegetation from Cape Point to the Cape of Good Hope. A walk along the coastal trail here will almost guarantee this species. Can also be seen by the upper viewing sites at Cape Point, and between these and the lower paths. Usually occurs in flocks of 5-20, but up to 150 have been recorded feeding on weed seeds along the coastal strip just north of the Cape of Good Hope. Breeding almost certainly takes place but has not been confirmed. A leucistic bird was at Cape Point on 12 August 2006 (B Rose).

Cinnamon-breasted Bunting *Emberiza tahapisi*
Vagrant from eastern South Africa.
One record. The first for the south-western Cape was one near the old lighthouse at Cape Point in April 2001. Generally found no further west in the southern Cape than George, more than 400 km away. There have been three subsequent regional occurrences, all from the Peninsula (Rhodes Memorial, 3 June 2002; Marina da Gama, 2012; Kirstenbosch, 20 April 2013. CBN).

Cape Bunting *Emberiza capensis*
Widespread breeding resident, locally common.
Found wherever there are rocks or bare ground with scattered bushes. Most numerous in disturbed grassy coastal forelands and coastal thicket; forages on rocky shores above and below the high-tide line and, occasionally, amongst rotting seaweed on sandy beaches. Nests with eggs have been found in December.

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Table 1. Average density of birds in three ages of Upland Mixed Fynbos. Feeding guild: M = mixed diet; I = insectivore; G = granivore; N = nectarivore. After Fraser (1990).

	Age of vegetation (years after fire)		
Species	**1.5**	**5.5**	**>15**
	Birds per hectare		
Grey-winged Francolin (M)	0	0.033	0
Crowned Lapwing (I)	0.12	0	0
Rock Pigeon (G)	0.073	0	0
Cape Turtle Dove (G)	0.003	0	0.004
Ground Woodpecker (I)	0.003	0	0
Clapper Lark (I)	0.014	0.007	0
Sentinel Rock Thrush (I)	0.021	0	0
Familiar Chat (I)	0.028	0	0
Cape Robin-Chat (M)	0	0	0.063
Cape Grassbird (I)	0	0	0.02
Grey-backed Cisticola (I)	0.003	0.04	0.13
Plain-backed Pipit (I)	0.035	0	0
Orange-throated Longclaw (I)	0.003	0	0.008
Common Fiscal (M)	0	0.01	0
Bokmakierie (M)	0	0	0.008
Red-winged Starling (M)	0	0	0.012
Cape Sugarbird (N)	0	0	0.37
Malachite Sunbird (N)	0.073	0.033	0.23
Orange-breasted Sunbird (N)	0	0.015	0.31
Yellow Bishop (G)	0.003	0.004	0.008
Cape Siskin (G)	0.017	0	0
Cape Canary (G)	0.069	0	0.02
Cape Bunting (G)	0.024	0.015	0.047
Total birds per hectare	**0.489**	**0.157**	**1.23**
No. of species	**15**	**8**	**13**

Table 2. Birds ringed in flowering *Protea repens* and *P. lepidocarpodendron* at Teeberg, June 1985.

Species	Number
Orange-breasted Sunbird	146
Cape Sugarbird	56
Malachite Sunbird	23
Cape Weaver	8
Cape White-eye	6
Cape Bulbul	1
Southern Double-collared Sunbird	1
Brimstone Canary	1
Yellow Bishop	1
Total birds	241
No. of species	9

Table 3. Average density of birds in three ages of Restionaceous Plateau Fynbos. Feeding guild: M = mixed diet; I = insectivore; G = granivore; N = nectarivore. After Fraser (1990).

	Age of vegetation (years after fire)		
Species	**1.5**	**5.5**	**>15**
	Birds per hectare		
Grey-winged Francolin (M)	0.024	0.033	0
Hottentot Buttonquail (I)	0	0	0.004
Crowned Lapwing (I)	0.36	0	0
Clapper Lark (I)	0.003	0	0
Cape Grassbird (I)	0	0.004	0.02
Grey-backed Cisticola (I)	0	0.037	0.046
Karoo Prinia (I)	0	0	0.004
Plain-backed Pipit (I)	0.21	0	0
Orange-throated Longclaw (I)	0.11	0.037	0.012
Common Fiscal (M)	0	0.012	0
Bokmakierie (M)	0	0	0.004
Malachite Sunbird (N)	0	0	0.004
Yellow Bishop (G)	0	0.011	0.012
Total birds per hectare	**0.735**	**0.134**	**0.106**
No. of species	**6**	**6**	**8**

Table 4. Average density of birds in three ages of Restionaceous Tussock Marsh. Feeding guild: M = mixed diet; I = insectivore; G = granivore. After Fraser (1990).

	Age of vegetation (years after fire)		
Species	**1.5**	**5.5**	**>15**
	Birds per hectare		
Yellow-billed Duck (M)	0	0	0.08
Grey-winged Francolin (M)	0.014	0	0
Crowned Lapwing	0.090	0	0
African Snipe (I)	0.006	0	0
Cape Grassbird (I)	0.004	0.100	0
Cloud Cisticola (I)	0.020	0	0
Grey-backed Cisticola (I)	0	0.022	0.079
Le Vaillant's Cisticola (I)	0	0.130	0.290
Plain-backed Pipit (I)	0.088	0	0
Orange-throated Longclaw (I)	0.054	0.011	0
Yellow Bishop	0.020	0.030	0.099
Total birds per hectare	**0.296**	**0.293**	**0.548**
No. of species	**8**	**5**	**4**

Table 5. Density of top 15 bird species in Coastal Thicket at Olifantsbos. Feeding guild: M = mixed diet; I = insectivore; G = granivore; N = nectarivore; F = frugivore.

Species	Birds per hectare
Southern Double-collared Sunbird (I/N)	1.86
Karoo Prinia (I)	1.71
Acacia Pied Barbet (F)	0.9
Cape Canary (G)	0.89
Cape White-eye	0.84
Cape Bunting (G)	0.83
Cape Turtle Dove (G)	0.79
Speckled Mousebird (F/Fo)	0.71
Cape Robin-Chat (M)	0.69
Malachite Sunbird (N)	0.6
Cape Bulbul (M)	0.5
Red-winged Starling (F/M)	0.43
Cape Spurfowl (G)	0.4
Southern Boubou (I)	0.37
Brimstone Canary (F/G)	0.29

Table 6. Average density of birds in an uninfested seepage area of Restionaceous Tussock Marsh and an adjacent area densely infested with mixed alien species (*Eucalyptus lehmannii*, *Acacia longifolia* and *A. saligna*). Feeding guild: M = mixed diet; I = insectivore; G = granivore; N = nectarivore; F = frugivore. After Fraser and Crowe (1990).

Species	Birds per hectare	
	Un-infested	100% infested
Cape Spurfowl (G)	0	0.08
Helmeted Guineafowl (G)	0	0.31
Red-eyed Dove (G)	0	0.01
Cape Turtle Dove (G)	0	0.97
Laughing Dove (G)	0	0.04
Speckled Mousebird (F/Fo)	0	0.01
Cape Bulbul (M)	0	0.17
Olive Thrush (M)	0	0.12
Cape Robin-Chat (M)	0	0.56
Cape Grassbird (I)	0.12	0
Karoo Prinia (I)	0.28	0
Dusky Flycatcher (I)	0	0.01
Southern Boubou (I)	0	0.47
Cape Sugarbird (N)	1	0.06
Malachite Sunbird (N)	0.08	0.35
Orange-breasted Sunbird (N)	0.36	0.04
Southern Double-collared Sunbird (I/N)	0.04	0.6
Cape White-eye (F)	0.08	1.29
Yellow Bishop (G)	0.2	0
Common Waxbill (G)	0.08	0.05
Total birds per hectare	**2.24**	**5.14**
No. of species	**9**	**17**

Table 7. Birds of Upland Mixed Fynbos infested with Rooikrans *Acacia cyclops*. Feeding guild: M = mixed diet; I = insectivore; G = granivore; N = nectarivores; F = frugivore. After Fraser and Crowe (1990).

Species	Density (birds ha^{-1})	
	1% infested	72% infested
Cape Turtle Dove (G)	0	0.03
Cape Bulbul (M)	0	0.53
Cape Robin-Chat (M)	0	0.45
Cape Grassbird (I)	0.03	0
Grey-backed Cisticola (I)	0.14	0.05
Karoo Prinia (I)	0.46	0.64
Southern Boubou (I)	0	0.19
Bokmakierie (I)	0	0.02
Red-winged Starling (M)	0.16	0.17
Cape Sugarbird (N)	0.4	0.13
Malachite Sunbird (N)	0.11	0.02
Orange-breasted Sunbird (N)	1.76	0.41
Southern Double-collared Sunbird (I/N)	0.22	0.2
Cape White-eye (F)	0	0.57
Cape Siskin (G)	0	0.13
Cape Bunting (G)	0.08	0.15
Total birds per hectare	**3.36**	**3.69**
No. of species	**9**	**15**

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Appendix 1. Checklist of the birds of the Cape of Good Hope Nature Reserve.

1. Status (S)

A Introduced alien (non-native) on South African list
B Breeding resident
(B) Has bred, but not in the last 20 years
E Extinct
I Introduced to Reserve
N Non-breeding, year-round or aseasonal visitor
S Non-breeding summer visitor
SS Breeding summer visitor
T Tideline corpse
V Vagrant
W Non-breeding winter visitor
? Unclear

2. Abundance (A)

A Abundant (present in large numbers in preferred habitat)
C Common (frequently seen in preferred habitat)
O Occasional (recorded in small numbers but not every year)
R Rare (5-10 records)
(R) Rare (5-10 records), but not recorded in past 20 years.
S Scarce (small numbers resident or recorded annually)
V Less than five records
(V) Less than five records, but none in last 20 years
VV One record
(VV) One record more than 20 years ago
? Unclear

3. Preferred habitat (H)

A Alien vegetation/man-modified (gardens, lawns)
B Buildings
C Coastal thicket (strandveld)
Cl Cliffs
F Freshwater (open water or margins)
Fl Flyover, or aerial feeder
M Old (>5 years post-fire) Mountain Fynbos
O Open sea
P Flowering ornithophilous shrubs (mainly Proteaceae) in old Mountain Fynbos
R Restioveld on plateaux
S Seashore
W Widespread in terrestrial habitats
Y Young (< 5 years post-fire) Mountain Fynbos

	Species		S	A	H
1	Common Ostrich	*Struthio camelus*	I/B	S	W
2	Grey-winged Francolin	*Scleroptila africanus*	B	S	W/M
3	Cape Spurfowl	*Pternistes capensis*	B	S	W/A
4	Common Quail	*Coturnix coturnix*	?/(B)	O	R
5	Common Peacock	*Pavo cristatus*	A/(B/) E	O	A
6	Helmeted Guineafowl	*Numida meleagris*	IR	C	A
7	Egyptian Goose	*Alopochen aegyptiacus*	B/S	C	S
8	South African Shelduck	*Tadorna cana*	V	(R)	F/S
9	Spur-winged Goose	*Plectropterus gambensis*	N/(B)	O	F/S
10	Cape Teal	*Anas capensis*	N/(B)	O	F/S
11	African Black Duck	*Anas sparsa*	(B)/N	S	F
12	Yellow-billed Duck	*Anas undulata*	B/N	C	F
13	Cape Shoveler	*Anas clypeata*	V	(VV)	F
14	Red-billed Teal	*Anas erythrorhyncha*	B/N	V	F
15	Southern Pochard	*Netta erythrophthalma*	V	(VV)	F

	Species		S	A	H
16	Hottentot Buttonquail	*Turnix hottentottus*	?	O	R
17	Lesser Honeyguide	*Indicator minor*	N	V	A
18	Brown-backed Honeybird	*Prodotiscus regulus*	N	VV	A
19	Ground Woodpecker	*Geocolaptes olivaceus*	B	S	M/Y
20	Acacia Pied Barbet	*Lybius leucomelas*	(B)/E	S	A
21	African Grey Hornbill	*Tockus nautus*	V	VV	-
22	African Hoopoe	*Upupa africana*	(B)N	O	A
23	Greater Scimitarbill	*Rhinopomastus cyanomelas*	V	(VV)	C
24	European Roller	*Coracias garrulus*	V	(VV)	A
25	Pied Kingfisher	*Ceryle rudis*	N	S	S
26	Giant Kingfisher	*Ceryle maxima*	N	S	S
27	Half-collared Kingfisher	*Alcedo semitorquata*	N	(R)	F/S
28	Malachite Kingfisher	*Alcedo cristata*	N	O	F/S
29	Grey-headed Kingfisher	*Halycon leucocephala*	V	(VV)	F
30	White-throated Bee-eater	*Merops albicollis*	V	(VV)	FI
31	European Bee-eater	*Merops apiaster*	V	(VV)	FI
32	Speckled Mousebird	*Colius striata*	B	C	C
33	White-backed Mousebird	*Colius colius*	N	O/(R)	C
34	Red-faced Mousebird	*Colius indicus*	V	(VV)	C
35	Red-chested Cuckoo	*Cuculus solitarius*	S	R	A
36	Klaas's Cuckoo	*Chrysococcyx klaas*	N	(R)	A
37	Burchell's Coucal	*Centropus burchellii*	?/(B)	O	C
38	African Black Swift	*Apus barbatus*	B/N	C	FI/CI
39	White-rumped Swift	*Apus caffer*	S	C	FI
40	Little Swift	*Apus affinis*	S	O	FI
41	Alpine Swift	*Apus melba*	B?/N	C	FI/CI

	Species		S	A	H
42	Western Barn Owl	*Tyto alba*	(B?)/N	O	A/B
43	African Wood-Owl	*Strix woodfordii*	(B)/E	S	A
44	Marsh Owl	*Asio capensis*	(B)/E/N	S	R
45	Spotted Eagle-Owl	*Bubo africanus*	B?/N	S	A/W
46	Pel's Fishing-Owl	*Scotopelia peli*	V	(VV)	A/F
47	Fiery-necked Nightjar	*Caprimulgus pectoralis*	B?/N	S	A/W
48	Feral Pigeon	*Columba livia*	N	O	B/FI
49	Rock Pigeon	*Columba guinea*	B	C	A/B/CI
50	Rameron Pigeon	*Columba arquatrix*	N	O	A/C
51	Red-eyed Dove	*Streptopelia semitorquata*	B/S	S	A
52	Cape Turtle Dove	*Streptopelia capicola*	B/S	C	A/W
53	Laughing Dove	*Streptopelia senegalensis*	B/N	S	A
54	Namaqua Dove	*Oena capensis*	N	O	W
55	Blue Crane	*Anthropoides paradiseus*	S	O	W/FI
56	Striped Flufftail	*Sarothura affinis*	?	O	R
57	American Purple Gallinule	*Porphyrula martinica*	V	(V)	-
58	Moorhen	*Gallinula chloropus*	(B)/N	(R)	F
59	Red-knobbed Coot	*Fulica cristata*	N	(R)	F
60	African Snipe	*Gallinago nigripennis*	(B?)/N	O	F/R
61	Bar-tailed Godwit	*Limosa lapponica*	S	O	S
62	Whimbrel	*Numenius phaeopus*	S	S	S
63	Eurasian Curlew	*Numenius arquata*	S	R	S
64	Marsh Sandpiper	*Tringa stagnatalis*	S	(R)	S/F
65	Common Greenshank	*Tringa nebularia*	N	C	S/F
66	Wood Sandpiper	*Tringa glareola*	S	(R)	F/S
67	Common Sandpiper	*Tringa hypoleucos*	S	O	F/S

	Species		S	A	H
68	Ruddy Turnstone	*Arenaria interpres*	S	C	S
69	Red Knot	*Calidris canutus*	S	O	S
70	Sanderling	*Calidris alba*	S	C	S
71	Little Stint	*Calidris minuta*	S	O	S
72	Baird's Sandpiper	*Calidris bairdii*	V	(VV)	S
73	White-rumped Sandpiper	*Calidris fuscicollis*	V	(VV)/ (V?)	S
74	Pectoral Sandpiper	*Calidris melanotos*	V	V	S
75	Curlew Sandpiper	*Calidris ferruginea*	S	C	S
76	Ruff	*Philomachus pugnax*	S	(VV)	S
77	Red Phalarope	*Phalaropus fulicarius*	N	(VV)	O
78	Greater Painted-snipe	*Rostratula benghalensis*	N	(R)	F
79	Greater Sheathbill	*Chionis alba*	V	R	Cl/S
80	Water Thick-knee	*Burhinus vermiculatus*	N	R	S
81	Spotted Thick-knee	*Burhinus capensis*	B/N	S	S/Y
82	African Black Oystercatcher	*Haematopus moquini*	B/N	S	S
83	Pied Avocet	*Recurvirostra avosetta*	N	C	S
84	Black-winged Stilt	*Himantopus himantopus*	N	O	S/F
85	American Golden Plover	*Pluvialis dominica*	V	R	S
86	Grey Plover	*Pluvialis squatarola*	S	S	S
87	Common Ringed Plover	*Charadrius hiaticula*	S	S	S
88	Kittlitz's Plover	*Charadrius pecuarius*	B/N	C	S
89	Three-banded Plover	*Charadrius tricollaris*	B/N	S	S/F
90	Chestnut-banded Plover	*Charadrius pallidus*	V	(VV)	S
91	White-fronted Plover	*Charadrius marginatus*	B/N	A	S
92	Blacksmith Lapwing	*Vanellus armatus*	B/N	S	Y/R/S
93	Crowned Lapwing	*Vanellus coronatus*	B/N	S	Y/R

	Species		S	A	H
94	Temminck's Courser	*Cursorius temmincki*	N	V	Y
95	Subantarctic Skua	*Stercorarius antarcticus*	W	C	O
96	Pomarine Jaeger	*Stercorarius pomarinus*	S	O	O
97	Arctic Jaeger	*Stercorarius parasiticus*	S	C	O
98	Long-tailed Jaeger	*Stercorarius longicaudus*	S	O	O
99	Kelp Gull	*Larus dominicanus*	B/N	A	Cl/S/O
100	Grey-headed Gull	*Larus cirrocephalus*	N	S	S
101	Hartlaub's Gull	*Larus hartlaubii*	N	A	S/O
102	Franklin's Gull	*Larus pipixcan*	V	VV	S
103	Sabine's Gull	*Larus sabini*	S	A	O
104	Caspian Tern	*Hydroprogne caspia*	N	S	S
105	Lesser Crested Tern	*Sterna bengalensis*	V	(VV)	S/O
106	Swift Tern	*Sterna bergii*	N	A	S/O
107	Sandwich Tern	*Sterna sandvicensis*	S	A	S/O
108	Common Tern	*Sterna hirundo*	S	A	S/O
109	Arctic Tern	*Sterna paradisaea*	N	S	O
110	Antarctic Tern	*Sterna vittata*	W	C	S/O
111	Damara Tern	*Sterna balaenarum*	N	(R)	S
112	Osprey	*Pandion haliætus*	N	(R)	S/F/Fl
113	European Honey-Buzzard	*Pernis apivorus*	W	VV	Fl
114	Black-shouldered Kite	*Elanus caeruleus*	B	S	W
115	Yellow-billed Kite	*Milvus parasitus*	S	S	W
116	African Fish-Eagle	*Haliæetus vocifer*	B/N	S	A/S/F
117	Cape Vulture	*Gyps coprotheres*	V	(V)	Fl
118	Black-chested Snake-Eagle	*Circaetus pectoralis*	N	(VV)	W
119	African Marsh-Harrier	*Circus ranivorus*	?B/N	O	R/W

	Species		S	A	H
120	Black Harrier	*Circus maurus*	N	R	W
121	African Harrier-Hawk	*Polyboroides typus*	N	R	A/Cl
122	Southern Pale Chanting Goshawk	*Melierax canorus*	N	VV	W
123	African Goshawk	*Accipiter tachiro*	N	O/S	A/C
124	Rufous-chested Sparrowhawk	*Accipiter rufiventris*	B/N	S	A/C
125	Black Sparrowhawk	*Accipiter melanoleucus*	N	V	A/W
126	Steppe Buzzard	*Buteo buteo*	S	C	W/Fl
127	Jackal Buzzard	*Buteo rufofuscus*	B/N	S	W/Cl
128	Verreaux's Eagle	*Aquila verreauxii*	B/N	S	W/Cl
129	Booted Eagle	*Hieraætus pennatus*	N	(R)	Fl
130	Martial Eagle	*Polemaetus bellicosus*	S	(VV)	Fl
131	Secretarybird	*Sagittarius serpentarius*	(B)/N	O	W
132	Lesser Kestrel	*Falco naumanni*	S	(R)	Fl
133	Rock Kestrel	*Falco tinnunculus*	B/N	S	W/Cl
134	European Hobby	*Falco subbuteo*	S	(VV)	Fl
135	Lanner Falcon	*Falco biarmicus*	N	(R)	W
136	Peregrine Falcon	*Falco peregrinus*	B/N	S	W/Cl
137	Little Grebe	*Tachybaptus ruficollis*	N/(B)?	O	F
138	Red-tailed Tropicbird	*Phaeton rubricauda*	V	(VV)	Cl/O
139	Cape Gannet	*Morus capensis*	N	A	O
140	African Darter	*Anhinga melanogaster*	N	O	F
141	Reed Cormorant	*Phalacrocorax africanus*	N	S	F
142	Crowned Cormorant	*Phalacrocorax coronatus*	N	N	O/S
143	White-breasted Cormorant	*Phalacrocorax carbo*	B/N	C	O/S/Cl
144	Bank Cormorant	*Phalacrocorax neglectus*	N	S	S/O
145	Cape Cormorant	*Phalacrocorax capensis*	B/N	A/C	Cl/S/O
146	Little Egret	*Egretta garzetta*	N	C	S/F
147	Little Blue Heron	*Egretta caerulea*	V	VV	S
148	Yellow-billed Egret	*Egretta intermedia*	N	O	S/F
149	Western Reef Heron	*Egretta gularis*	V	VV	S
150	Grey Heron	*Ardea cinerea*	N	S	S/F
151	Black-headed Heron	*Ardea melanocephala*	N	S	S/F
152	Cattle Egret	*Bubulcus ibis*	N	S	A/S
153	Black-crowned Night Heron	*Nycticorax nycticorax*	N/B?	S	F/S/A
154	Hamerkop	*Scopus umbretta*	(B)N?	S	F/A
155	Greater Flamingo	*Phoenicopterus ruber*	N	O	S
156	Glossy Ibis	*Plegadis falcinellus*	N	C	S/F/A
157	Sacred Ibis	*Threskiornis aethiopicus*	N	C	S
158	Glossy Ibis	*Plegadis falcinellus*	N	C	S
159	Hadeda Ibis	*Bostrychia hagedash*	B/N	S	A
160	African Spoonbill	*Platalea alba*	V	(VV)	F
161	White Stork	*Ciconia ciconia*	S	S	Fl/Y/F
162	Black Stork	*Ciconia nigra*	N	(V)	F
163	Macaroni Penguin	*Eudyptes chrysolophus*	V	(V)	S
164	Northern Rockhopper Penguin	*Eudyptes moseleyi*	V	(V)	S
165	African Penguin	*Spheniscus demersus*	N	S	O/S
166	Wilson's Storm Petrel	*Oceanites oceanicus*	W	A	O
167	European Storm-Petrel	*Hydrobates pelagicus*	S	S	O
168	Wandering Albatross	*Diomedea exulans*	W	V	O
169	Northern Royal Albatross	*Diomedea sanfordi*	W	V	O
170	Salvin's Albatross	*Thalassarche salvini*	W	(VV)	O

	Species		S	A	H
171	Shy Albatross	*Thalassarche cauta*	W	C	O
172	Black-browed Albatross	*Thalassarche melanophris*	W	C	O
173	Atlantic Yellow-nosed Albatross	*Thalassarche chlororhynchos*	W	C	O
174	Dark-mantled Sooty Albatross	*Phoebetria fusca*	V/T	(V)	O
175	Light-mantled Sooty Albatross	*Phoebetria palpebrata*	V	(V)	O
176	Southern Giant Petrel	*Macronectes giganteus*	W	C	O
177	Northern Giant Petrel	*Macronectes halli*	W	C	O
178	Southern Fulmar	*Fulmarus glacialoides*	W	R	O
179	Pintado Petrel	*Daption capense*	W	C	O
180	Great-winged Petrel	*Pterodroma macroptera*	W	S	O
181	Atlantic Petrel	*Pterodroma incerta*	W	V	O
182	Soft-plumaged Petrel	*Pterodroma mollis*	W	C	O
183	Blue Petrel	*Halobaena caerulea*	T	(V)	O
184	Broad-billed Prion	*Pachyptilla vittata*	W	C?	O
185	Antarctic Prion	*Pachyptilla desolata*	W	A	O
186	Slender-billed Prion	*Pachyptilla belcheri*	W/T	R?	O
187	White-chinned Petrel	*Procellaria aequinoctialis*	W/N	A	O
188	Cory's Shearwater	*Calonectris diomedea*	S	A	O
189	Great Shearwater	*Puffinus gravis*	N	C	O
190	Flesh-footed Shearwater	*Puffinus carneipes*	S	V	O
191	Sooty Shearwater	*Puffinus griseus*	W	A	O
192	Manx Shearwater	*Puffinus puffinus*	N	O	O
193	Little Shearwater	*Puffinus assimilis*	W	O	O
194	Fork-tailed Drongo	*Dicrurus adsimilis*	N	R	A
195	African Paradise-Flycatcher	*Terpsiphone viridis*	SS	S	A

	Species		S	A	H
196	Southern Boubou	*Laniarius ferrugineus*	B	C	C/A
197	Bokmakierie	*Telophorus zeylonus*	B	C	C/M
198	Cape Batis	*Batis capensis*	N	(V)	A
199	Black Crow	*Corvus capensis*	V	(VV)	?
200	Pied Crow	*Corvus albus*	N	O	W/FI
201	White-necked Raven	*Corvus albicollis*	B	S	W/CI
202	Lesser Grey Shrike	*Lanius minor*	V	(VV)	-
203	Fiscal Shrike	*Lanius collaris*	B	C	C/A/M
204	Red-backed Shrike	*Lanius collurio*	V	(V)	C/M
205	Southern Grey Tit	*Parus afer*	V	(VV)	M
206	Barn Swallow	*Hirundo rustica*	S	C/A	W/C/S
207	White-throated Swallow	*Hirundo albogularis*	S	S	C/S
208	Greater Striped Swallow	*Hirundo cucullata*	S	O	B
209	Rock Martin	*Hirundo fuligula*	B	C	W/B/CI
210	House Martin	*Delichon urbica*	S	V	FI
211	Brown-throated Martin	*Riparia paludicola*	?/N	O	C/F
212	Black Saw-wing	*Psalidoprocne holomelaena*	(B)/S	(V)	F/FI
213	Cape Bulbul	*Pycnonotus capensis*	B/N	C	C/A/P
214	Sombre Greenbul	*Andropadus importunes*	V	(VV)	A
215	Cape Grassbird	*Sphenoeacus afer*	B	C	W
216	Long-billed Crombec	*Sylvietta rufescens*	V	(VV)?	A
217	Little Rush Warbler	*Bradypterus baboecala*	N/?	(V)	F/C
218	Lesser Swamp Warbler	*Acrocephalus gracilirostris*	N/?	O	F
219	European Marsh Warbler	*Acrocephalus palustris*	V	(VV)	C
220	Icterine Warbler	*Hippolais icterina*	V	(VV)	C
221	Cape White-eye	*Zosterops pallidus*	B/N	C	C/A/M/P

	Species		S	A	H
222	Grey-backed Cisticola	*Cisticola subruficapilla*	B	C	C/M
223	Le Vaillant's Cisticola	*Cisticola tinniens*	B	C	R/F
224	Neddicky	*Cisticola fulvicapilla*	B/(B)?	O	M/Y
225	Zitting Cisticola	*Cisticola juncidis*	N/?	(V)	R/A
226	Cloud Cisticola	*Cisticola textrix*	B	S	R
227	Spotted Prinia	*Prinia maculosa*	B	C	C/M/A
228	Bar-throated Apalis	*Apalis thoracica*	N	(V)	C
229	Clapper Lark	*Mirafra apiata*	B	S	R/Y
230	Grey-backed Finchlark	*Eremopterix verticalis*	V	(VV)	R
231	Cape Rock Thrush	*Monticola rupestris*	B	S	Y/B/C
232	Sentinel Rock Thrush	*Monticola explorator*	B	S	Y
233	Southern Olive Thrush	*Turdus olivaceous*	B	S	A/C
234	Fiscal Flycatcher	*Sigelus silens*	B	S	A/C
235	Spotted Flycatcher	*Muscicapa striata*	S	(R)	A/C
236	Dusky Flycatcher	*Muscicapa adusta*	SS	S	A
237	Cape Robin-Chat	*Cossypha caffra*	B	B	C/A/M
238	Brown Scrub-Robin	*Erythropygia signata*	V	(VV)	C
239	Karoo Scrub-Robin	*Erythropygia coryphaeus*	(B)/N	O	C/M
240	African Stonechat	*Saxicola torquata*	B	S	M
241	Mountain Chat	*Oenanthe monticola*	V	(VV)	Y
242	Capped Wheatear	*Oenanthe pileata*	V	VV	Y
243	Familiar Chat	*Cercomela familiaris*	B	C	M/Cl/S/B
244	Red-winged Starling	*Onychognathus morio*	B/N	C	A/P/S/B/Cl
245	Wattled Starling	*Creatophora cinerea*	N	O	S/A
246	European Starling	*Sturnus vulgaris*	I/N/B	C/A	S/A
247	Orange-breasted Sunbird	*Anthobaphe violacea*	B/N?	C/A	P/M/C

	Species		S	A	H
248	Amethyst Sunbird	*Chalcomitra amethystina*	V	(VV)	C
249	Malachite Sunbird	*Nectarinia famosa*	B/S	C/A	C/M/Y/A
250	Southern Double-collared Sunbird	*Cinnyris chalybeus*	B/S	C/A	C/A/P
251	Dusky Sunbird	*Cinnyris fuscus*	V	VV	C/Fl
252	Cape Sugarbird	*Promerops cafer*	B/N	C/A	P/M
253	Cape Weaver	*Ploceus capensis*	(B)/N	S	A/C/Fl
254	Southern Masked Weaver	*Ploceus velatus*	(B)/N	(V)	A
255	Red-billed Quelea	*Quelea quelea*	V	V	C/Fl
256	Southern Red Bishop	*Euplectes orix*	N	O	C/R
257	Yellow Bishop	*Euplectes capensis*	B	C	R/F
258	White-winged Widowbird	*Euplectes albonotatus*	V	VV	C
259	Common Waxbill	*Estrilda astrild*	B	C	C/R
260	African Quailfinch	*Ortygospiza atricollis*	N	(V)	?
261	Pin-tailed Whydah	*Vidua macroura*	N/(B)	O	C/R
262	House Sparrow	*Passer domesticus*	A/(B)/N	O/C	A/B/Fl
263	Cape Sparrow	*Passer melanurus*	(B)/N	O	A/B
264	Southern Grey-headed Sparrow	*Passer diffusus*	V	V	C/B
265	African Pied Wagtail	*Motacilla agiump*	V	VV	S
266	Cape Wagtail	*Motacilla capensis*	B/N	C	S/B/F
267	Yellow Wagtail	*Motacilla flava*	V	(VV)	S
268	Grey Wagtail	*Motacilla cinerea*	V	(VV)	F
269	African Pipit	*Anthus cinnamomeus*	V	(VV)	R
270	Plain-backed Pipit	*Anthus leucophrys*	B/N	S/C	Y/S/A
271	Long-billed Pipit	*Anthus similis*	?	(V)	Y
272	Orange-throated Longclaw	*Macronyx capensis*	B/N	O	Y/A

	Species		S	A	H
273	Chaffinch	*Fringilla coelebs*	A/V	(VV)	A
274	Cape Canary	*Serinus canicollis*	B/N	C	C/Y/M
275	Brimstone Canary	*Serinus sulphuratus*	B/N	S	C
276	Yellow Canary	*Serinus flaviventris*	N	S	C
277	Cape Siskin	*Crithagra totta*	B/N	C	Y/C
278	Cinnamon-breasted Bunting	*Emberiza tahapisi*	V	VV	C
279	Cape Bunting	*Emberiza capensis*	B	C	W

Unconfirmed records
Cape Eagle-Owl *Bubo capensis*
European Nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus*
Freckled Nightjar *Caprimulgus tristigma*
Forest Buzzard *Buteo tachardus*
Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus*
Greater Kestrel *Falco rupicoloides*
African Hobby *Falco cuvierii*
Great Egret *Egretta alba*
Lesser Flamingo *Phoenicopterus minor*
Eastern White Pelican *Pelecanus onocrotolatus*
Grey-headed Albatrosss *Thalassarche chrysostoma*
European Golden Oriole *Oriolus oriolus*
Greater Double-collared Sunbird *Cinnyris afer*
White-throated Canary *Serinus albogularis*

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