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BIBLIOGRAPHY: RESEARCH PAPERS AND POSTGRADUATE THESES WHICH HAVE BEEN LARGELY DEPENDENT ON DATA FROM THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN BIRD ATLAS PROJECTS

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Introduction

The databases of the two bird atlas projects in southern Africa have been widely used in research, as a resource both for papers and postgraduate projects. The scope and the volume of the applications of these two databases are almost certainly exceptional in relation to similar projects worldwide. This collection of papers is a monument to the citizen scientists who collected the overwhelming bulk of the data.

From the Animal Demography Unit side, we are extremely grateful to all the researchers and students who have chosen these data to illustrate their ideas, test hypothesis in ecological theory, develop models, and draw inferences. There is no doubt that these projects and their databases have not only benefited academic research, but also the birds themselves. Theories in biodiversity conservation have tested using the bird atlas data; the ideas which turn out to be practical finally get implemented on the ground. For example, in her PhD thesis, Ana Rodrigues, University of Sheffield, developed new algorithms for the efficient selection of nature reserves (Rodrigues 2002). A concept which starts out in a PhD thesis, ultimately gets adopted in practice, to the benefit of biodiversity conservation.

The primary data collection period for the first bird atlas project (then referred to as the Southern African Bird Atlas Project, SABAP, and now known as SABAP1) was 1987–91, and incorporated data from as far back as 1980, and in some regions included data until 1993 (Harrison & Underhill 1987). The SABAP1 database consists of 7.3 million records of bird distribution for Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland and Zimbabwe, collected using a 15 minute grid (and a 30 minute grid in Botswana) (Harrison & Underhill 1997). The two introductory chapters to the published atlas (Harrison et al. 1997a, b) contain important background information on the project methods and the limitations to data interpretation, and a useful summary of the geographical backdrop to the project (Harrison & Underhill 1997, Allan et al. 1997). Both chapters are available on the ADU website; see the References.

Data collection for the Second Southern African Bird Atlas Project (SABAP2) commenced in July 2007. In June 2015, the project completed its 10th year of data collection (Underhill & Brooks 2016), and is currently in its 10th year. By early August 2016, more than nine million records of bird distribution were in the SABAP2 database. The spatial scale is nine times finer than that of SABAP2, and uses a five-minute grid (Underhill 2016).

This paper provides a bibliography of published research which undertook extensive analyses of data from the First or Second Southern African Bird Atlas Projects (SABAP1 or SABAP2). For the papers and theses listed, the criterion for inclusion was that bird atlas data were pivotal to underpin the publication. Papers are listed by year; theses are listed in alphabetical order.

In addition, publications relating to SABAP2 are contained in the ADU's ejournal, Biodiversity Observations (previously Ornithological Observations). These were not refereed papers, and it was therefore deemed inappropriate to include them in the bibliography itself. They are listed in a separate section after the theses. Several of these

papers relate to comparisons, for particular quarter degree grid cells, between the observations made during the SABAP1 and during SABAP2

This bibliography is inevitably incomplete. Details of papers which have been omitted can be emailed to les.underhill@uct.ac.za and will be included as supplements to this paper.

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