**MAKULEKE BIRD LIST**

**2023**

**(Based on and updated from the 2007 and 2017 Makuleke Ramsar Site RIS)**

Table 1. Uncommon South African birds which have been recorded in the Ramsar wetland area, which existence depend on the wetlands (2017-2023) (SA Status obtained from Red Data Book of Birds of South Africa, Lesotho and Swaziland, 2023, accessed at <http://speciesstatus.sanbi.org/>)

| **Scientific name** | **Common name** | **Threat Status in South Africa** | **Comments** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *Anastomus lamelligerus* | Openbilled Stork, African Openbill | LC | It is widely distributed in Sub-Saharan Africa and western regions of Madagascar. A large breeding colony is found at the park. |
| *Botaurus stellaris* | Eurasian Bittern | LC | Globally widespread, however in Southern Africa, it is rare in northern Botswana and the Caprivi Strip (Namibia), with a few isolated populations in South Africa and eastern Zimbabwe. |
| *Charadrius marginatus* | Whitefronted Plover | LC | Wader species endemic to sub-Saharan Africa It commonly occurs on the coastline, with fewer recorded observations in inland wetlands. At the site it mainly occurs on the Limpopo River. Largely sedentary along the coast, occasionally moving from exposed to sheltered shores in winter. However inland it is migratory, leaving the northern and north-western region of southern Africa in December because of floods, heading to the south-eastern coast, where it stays until May |
| Ciconia microscelis | African Woollyneck | LC | Large wading bird that breeds across much of western, eastern, and south-central Africa. In South Africa it is a relatively rare species, with occurrences restricted to the northern and eastern regions. Occupies almost any wetland habitat, generally preferring flood plains, rivers, pans, ponds, dams, lagoons, swamp forests, mangrove swamps, tidal mudflats, estuaries and also man-made habitats |
| *Ciconia nigra* | Black Stork | VU | Breeds widely across the Palearctic region and is a partial migrant into sub-Saharan Africa. Breed on cliffs of Pafuri region, very few nests in S.A. |
| *Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis* | Saddlebilled Stork | EN | It is a widespread species which is a resident breeder in sub-Saharan Africa from Sudan, Ethiopia and Kenya south to South Africa, and in The Gambia, Senegal, Côte d'Ivoire and Chad in west Africa. Rare in South Africa, heavily dependent on water bodies at the site for their main food source of fish. quality of water especially those of the Luvuvhu/Limpopo River systems are of critical importance in maintaining this threatened species’ population in South Africa. |
| *Gyps africanus* | White-backed Vulture | CR | Nesting site. Breeds in the Riparian Zones of the Limpopo and Luvuvhu Rivers. |
| *Leptoptilos crumeniferus* | Marabou stork | NT | Occurs throughout sub-Saharan Africa. Within the region, it is primarily a non-breeding visitor from farther north in Africa, with only scattered and sporadic breeding records known from the Kruger National Park and Pongolo Game Reserve (northern KwaZulu-Natal), One of two breeding sites in S.A. |
| *Motacilla clara* | Mountain Wagtail | LC | Rare in Sub-Saharan Africa, occurring in isolated patches. In S.A., it is associated with the most limited and patchy distribution. Only common along Mutale and Luvuvhu Rivers in the K.N.P. |
| *Motacilla clara* | *Longtailed Wagtail* | LC | *Rare in Sub-Saharan Africa, occurring in isolated patches. In S.A., it is associated with the most limited and patchy distribution. Only common along Mutale and Luvuvhu Rivers in the K.N.P.* |
| *Mycteria ibis* | Yellowbilled Stork | EN | Opportunistic breeding resident with nomadic movements within the Park. Breeding has been observed at two of the pans in the Park (both Spokonyole Pan in the Limpopo floodplain and Reedbuck Vlei in the Levuvhu floodplain) |
| *Nettapus auritus* | Pygmy Goose | V | Has a wide, albeit fragmented, distribution across sub-Saharan Africa and Madagascar. Within southern Africa it occurs in Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Namibia and Botswana where the Okavango Delta forms the regional stronghold. Uncommon in north-eastern South Africa with the only permanent populations (given sufficient rainfall) occurring on the Nyl River Floodplain and in Kruger National Park (Mostly in the pans of floodplains of the Limpopo and Luvuvhu Rivers). It is more numerous in KwaZulu-Natal, and can be locally common in the extensive wetland, floodplain and pan systems of Maputaland |
| *Pelecanus onocrotalus* | White pelican | VU | The breeding range of the great white pelican extends to Ethiopia, Tanzania, Chad, northern Cameroons, and Nigeria in Africa, and has been observed or reported breeding in Zambia, Botswana, and South Africa. Rare and threatened in South Africa |
| *Pelecanus rufescens* | Pink-backed pelican | VU | It is a resident breeder in the swamps and shallow lakes of Africa and southern Arabia; it has also apparently been extirpated from Madagascar. Rare and threatened in South Africa |
| *Porphyrio alleni* | Allen’s Gallinule, lesser gallinule | LC | Occurs in Africa south of the Sahara, Madagascar and Comoro Islands. Site serves as an important stopover for this migrating waterbird |
| *Tringa ochropus* | Green Sandpiper | LC | Generally scarce in Southern Africa, occurring in patches of Zimbabwe, Limpopo Province, northern and southern Botswana and central Mozambique. Site serves as an important stopover for this migrating waterbird |
| *Vanellus albiceps* | Whitecrowned Lapwing | LC | Uncommon in S.A. High density in S.A. on the Luvuvhu River. |

Table 2. Uncommon South African birds not totally dependent on the wetland and which have been recorded at the Ramsar Site (2017-2023)

| **Scientific name** | **Common name** | **Status in South Africa** | **Comments** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *Acrocephalus griseldis* | Basra Reed Warbler | EN | It is one of the rarest migrants to Southern Africa. Very rare non-breeding Palaearctic vagrant that feeds along the tall weedy growth in riparian forests along the Luvuvhu River. |
| *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus* | European Sedge Warbler | LC | Palaearctic migrant, occurs here alongside the Basara Reed Warbler but, in more riverine habitats. Uncommon in the K.N.P. where it has only been recorded from the north. Widely distributed in Sub-Saharan Africa. |
| *Aplopelia larvata* | Cinnamon Dove | LC | The Cinnamon Dove is widespread in the Afrotropical region but its distribution is restricted to forested areas and it consequently has a discontinuous range in southern Africa. |
| *Coracina caesia* | Grey Cuckooshrike | LC | Rare in Sub-Saharan Africa as it occurs in isolated numbers across this region. Uncommon resident in S.A. Resident in small numbers on the Luvuvhu River |
| Coracias spatulatus | racket-tailed roller | LC | Endemic to Africa, occupying an area from Tanzania to Angola, south to Zimbabwe Botswana and Mozambique. Rare in South Africa. |
| Crithagra citrinipectus | lemon-breasted canary | LC | One of few species with global ranges of less than 50 000 km2 defining the South-east African Coast Endemic Bird Area |
| *Erythropygia leucophrys* | Bearded Robin | LC | Resident in riverine forests of the northern K.N.P. |
| *Falco peregrinus* | Peregrine Falcon | LC | Rare in Southern Africa and localized in Namibia, northern and eastern Botswana, Zimbabwe, western Mozambique and South Africa. Scarce or rare visitor that breeds in the Luvuvhu gorge just upstream of the Ramsar site. Rare breeding resident |
| *Lamprotornis mevesii* | Longtailed Starling, Meve’s Starling | LC | Rare in S.A. Only resident in the Limpopo/Luvuvhu River valley. |
| *Laniarius aethiopicus* | Tropical Boubou | LC | Rare in S.A. Occurs in the Northern Limpopo Province, only in the north of the K.N.P. |
| *Laniarius atrococcineus* | Crimsonbreasted Shrike | LC | Rare in K.N.P. with sightings only in the north |
| *Malaenornis mariquensis* | Marico Flycatcher | LC | Uncommon in the K.N.P. where it has only been recorded from the north |
| *Merops hirundineus* | Swallowtailed Beeeater | LC | Rare in the K.N.P. and only recorded along the Limpopo River |
| *Neafrapus boehmi* | Böhm's Spinetail | LC | Rare in South Africa Uncommon. Resident at Pafuri. Nests inside hollow baobabs. Rare and local. |
| Cinnyris venustus | Yellowbellied Sunbird | LC | Uncommon in S.A. |
| *Oriolus auratus* | African Golden Oriole | LC | Occurs in large areas of sub-Saharan Africa, however scarce in the Limpopo Province. Rare in SA. Restricted to the north of the K.N.P. |
| *Polihierax semitorquatus* | Pygmy Falcon | LC | Endemic to eastern and southern Africa. |
| *Rhinoptilus cinctus* | Threebanded Courser | LC | Endemic to South Eastern Africa. Rare in South Africa. (RIS 2007: Only sightings in SA and the only breeding site in SA) |
| *Scotopelia peli* | Pel's Fishing Owl | EN | Uncommon resident in S.A. – highest densities on the Luvuvhu River. |
| *Stephanoaetus coronatus* | Crowned Eagle | VU | Rare in eastern and southern South Africa. Uncommon in K.N.P. but localised at Pafuri. |
| *Telacanthura ussheri* | Mottled Spinetail | LC | Uncommon, only resident at Pafuri. Endemic to Sub-Saharan Africa, rare in South Africa. with distribution limited to the northern Limpopo province |
| *Telophorus nigrifrons* | Blackfronted Bush Shrike | LC | Endemic to Southern Africa. In South Africa this is a rare species with occurrences limited to the northern region. |
| *Telophorus olivaceus* | Olive Bush Shrike | LC | Rare in K.N.P. where it has only been recorded from the north  Near-endemic to southern Africa, occurring in Zimbabwe's eastern highlands bordering on Mozambique, as well as in southern Malawi. |
| *Zosterops senegalensis* | Yellow White-eye | LC | Uncommon in S.A. where it has only been recorded from the Limpopo/Luvuvhu region |
| *Cercotrichas quadrivirgata* | Bearded Scrub Robin. | LC | Rare in Southern Africa, particularly Namibia. In Namibia, it is only recorded from the Zambezi region, including from the Kwando, Chobe, and Zambezi rivers and intervening woodland. |
| *Platysteira peltata* | Black-throated Wattle-eye | LC | Uncommon, with populations scattered across Zimbabwe, Mozambique, KwaZulu-Natal and the northern region of the Limpopo Province in South Africa (in the Pafuri region). It usually occupies Afromontane and coastal forest, often near a river or stream with vegetation protruding into the water. |

Table 3. Other potential South African birds that potentially occur at the Ramsar Site (to be confirmed in future)

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Scientific name** | **Common name** | **Status in South Africa** | **Comments** |
| *Terathopius ecaudatus* | Bateleur | EN | Restricted to sub-Saharan Africa, in southern Africa, it is found throughout South Africa, Namibia, Botswana, Zimbabwe, and southern Mozambique. Kruger National Park holds the majority of the regional population. |
| *Bucorvus leadbeateri* | Ground Hornbill | EN | The family is endemic to sub-Saharan Africa: the Abyssinian ground hornbill occurs in a belt from Senegal east to Ethiopia, and the southern ground hornbill occurs in southern and East Africa. |
| *Falco dickinsoni* | Dickenson’s Kestrel | LC | Uncommon, restricted to the north of Limpopo. |
| *Myrmecocichla arnotti* | Arnot’s Chat | LC | Uncommon, restricted to the north of Limpopo. |
| *Eurystomus glaucurus* | Broad-billed Roller | LC | Breeds across tropical Africa and Madagascar in all but the driest regions. It is a wet season breeder, which migrates from the northern and southern areas of its range towards the moister equatorial belt in the dry season. Uncommon in South Africa |
| *Pinarocorys nigricans* | Dusky Lark | LC | A species of migratory lark in the family Alaudidae. It is native to the southern Afro tropics. Rare in South Africa. |
| *Poicephalus fuscicollis* | Grey-headed Parrot | LC | A large Poicephalus parrot species endemic to Africa. Rare in South Africa |
| *Merops nubicoides* | Carmine Bee-eater | LC | Occurs from KwaZulu-Natal and Namibia to Gabon, the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo and Kenya. The bee-eater is a migratory species, spending the breeding season, between August and November, in Zimbabwe and Zambia, before moving as far south as South Africa for the summer months, and then migrating to Equatorial Africa from March to August. |
| *Merops persicus -* | Blue-cheeked Bee-eater | LC | It breeds in Northern Africa, and the Middle East from eastern Turkey to Kazakhstan and India. It is generally strongly migratory, wintering in tropical Africa. |
| *Cecropis senegalensis* | Mosque Swallows | LC | It is a resident breeder in much of sub-Saharan Africa, although most common in the west. It does not migrate but follows the rains to some extent. |
| *Clamator glandarius* | Great-spotted Cuckoo | LC | It is widely spread throughout Africa and the Mediterranean Basin. |
| *Sarkidiornis melanotos* | Knob-billed Duck | LC | Type of duck found along the tropical/sub-tropical wetlands and waterways of Sub-Saharan Africa and the island of Madagascar, as well as most of South Asia and mainland Indochina. |
| *Prionops retzii* | Retz Helmetshrikes; | LC | It is found in Angola, Botswana, DRC, Eswatini, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Somalia, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. Its natural habitats are subtropical or tropical dry forests, subtropical or tropical mangrove forests, and subtropical or tropical moist shrubland. Rare in South Africa |
| *Aviceda cuculoides* | African Cuckoo Hawk | LC | It is found in sub-Saharan Africa and along the eastern parts of Southern Africa, preferring dense woodland and forest of either indigenous or exotic trees. |
| *Cossypha heuglini* | Heuglin’s Robin-chat | LC | Found in east, central and southern Africa, its natural habitats include riverine forest and thickets, and it is also found near humans. |
| *Fraseria caerulescens* | Ashy Flycatcher | LC | It is found throughout sub-Saharan Africa, excluding the drier areas of South Africa, Botswana, and Namibia, where it inhabits subtropical or tropical dry forest, subtropical or tropical moist lowland forest, and savanna. |
| *Bubo lacteus* | Verreaux’s Eagle Owls | LC | Widespread in sub-Saharan Africa. |

**\*Note:** Additional species are listed in the2017 Ramsar Site Information Sheet, which included a table on rare wetland/water-dependent bird species with reporting rates <10%, obtained from the SABAP2 database (Accessed: March 2017). An updated and comprehensive bird species inventory for the Site will be produced in subsequent work at the Ramsar Site.