

AGULHAS PLAINS BIRDING PROJECT

YEARLY REPORT 2014 (Revised)

INTRODUCTION

The Agulhas Plains Birding Project has now completed its 5th and final year and hopefully will be of some scientific value in managing the assets of the Agulhas National Park (AGNP) as well as Nuwejaarsrivier Special Management Area (NSMA). It has been another exceptional year with good rains, which lead to some exceptional birding.

More than a 100 SABAP2 fieldsheets were submitted for the project, which gives the project a substantial size and some statistical significance. The pages below will deal with the statistics in various ways and findings will be discussed in order to leave the AGNP and NSMA with something to work on in future planning.

This is the 5th report submitted and looking back, it is clear that we have come a long way in understanding the birds of the Agulhas Plains. Unfortunately, one also has to admit that in the first 2 years at least, mistakes have been made and in retrospect a few identifications must leave some question marks. Let me explain:

In a project such as this, the amateur tends to look at the Roberts or Sasol Birding manual and then see that this area should have Forest Canaries. You then find all the other canaries of the area (Yellow, Brimstone, White-throated and Cape) and begin to look for the "one not yet seen". Soon you convince yourself that you actually did see a "Forest Canary". Then as you get more experienced and understand the relationship between habitat and species, you begin to question earlier identifications. You also find SABAP did not accept your identification and then you start to investigate only to find that you probably saw some Yellow Canary female or juvenile (or combination of the two).

In my discussion of Species I will highlight those species that I positively identified and later questioned. Very often these "questionable species" was added because you were accompanied by a more experienced birder and he says "ye" and you are just too happy to oblige, because it improves your species list!

As the project reached its 3rd year, I stopped accepting any species unless it could be confirmed by a picture or sound clip. This often puts one in a difficult position because many birders have years and years more experience than you have and when they then report a specific species seen, I often found them to react negatively. Unfortunately this is the only way to be 100% sure of your identification.

The above experience, makes one wonder whether information of the first 2 years should be included at all and whether one should not simply do another 2 years! I have chosen not to do so because all of the "questionables" will be highlighted as such and furthermore I will discuss how mistaken identity could be explained.

So this is then a summary of 5 years of intensive birding in a very specific area, the Agulhas Plain defined as follows :

1. All the pentads that has parts of the AGNP and NuwejaarsriverSMA in them.
2. All pentads that include area South of the Bredasdorp Mountains i.e South of 3430 latitude.

3. Pentads East of 1935 longitude and West of the 2010 longitude.
4. This is the area defined as the Agulhas Plain and includes the De Mond Nature reserve as well as Quoin Point Nature Reserve, both of which is managed by Cape Nature.
5. This area includes a RAMSAR site i.e. The 924Ha De Mond Nature Reserve.

METHODOLOGY

For the past five years the author has either alone or with fellow birders gone out birding in one of the 22 pentads in the Agulhas Plains. Initially the pentad numbered less than 22, but we soon realized that it would make sense to cover the larger area as seen today.

Each field trip was planned in advance so that all habitats could be covered effectively. Where necessary we phone or sms'ed the relevant managers of the farm or AGNP area to get permission. We usually leave between 05h00 and 06h00 as the best birding time is probably between sunrise and the following 5 hrs(season dependent). The pentads were covered better and better each year as we became more familiar with the terrain, but also because our relationship with the AGNP management and farmers of the NSMA improved.

We went out armed with binoculars, scope and camera with telephoto Zoom lens. We used the SABAP maps(from website) for planning and a GPS to assure we stayed in a specific pentad. Reference tools used were:

SASOL Bird of Southern Africa – Sinclair,Hockey,Tarboton and Ryan

Birds of Southern Africa. Complete Photographic Field Guide. Sinclair, Ryan

SASOL Southern African LBJ's Made Simple. Doug Newman, Gordon King

The Raptor Guide of Southern Africa. Oberpriller and Cillie.

Pipits of Southern Africa. Faansie Peacock

Roberts Birds of Southern Africa Version 3. 1997-2007. Laptop version.

Roberts Birds of Southern Africa VII. New Edition. 2014

Field guide to shorebirds of Southern Africa. Cowgill and Davis

Chamberlain's LBJ's. Faansie Peacock. 2012.

Roberts Geographical Variation of Southern African Birds. Chittendon, Allan and Weiersbye.2012.

Roberts Nests and Eggs of Southern African Birds. Tarboton. 2011.

Birds - The Inside Story. R&H Loon. 2005

Birds were identified by viewing but also by call as experience increased. The use of Robert's recorded bird calls have improved our efficacy and increased our accuracy significantly. We began recording the calls of certain birds in the area as a means of identification. It was then possible to go home and search for the call in a bank of bird calls.

Birds were listed in the order they were seen as required by SABAP2. Hourly counts were noted. A minimum of 2 hours were spent in each pentad.

In the planning stage, we would watch the weather forecast in order to target the days with sunshine and little wind(if possible). Overcast or windy days negatively influence the counting. Interestingly, some species are easier to approach in windy conditions and often one could get closer for a better picture.

We would often, in preparation, visit the SABAP website to study the birds already listed for that specific pentad and study the species not yet ticked for that pentad. This included studying habitat, habits and calls.

All bird lists were submitted electronically to SABAP2. SABAP2 scrutinized the lists for "out of range" species and if there were any, sent us an "out of range" form which we had to submit. If substantial evidence could be produced, these species were accepted for that specific pentad.

In addition to the pentad bird lists, produced by this project, rarities reported on the SA rarities list with pictures to substantiate them has been included as well. All other bird identifications from local birders, seen independently of the project, were also included if substantiated by photographs and accurate location.

STATISTICS BY PENTAD

GENERAL

For this project 22 Pentads were visited regularly and counted. The Kosierskraal pentad(3430_1950) was added to the project only 2 years ago, Quoin Point 3 years ago and the Grashoek pentad(3430_1955) a year ago. De Mond pentad was visited at least once a year and could have received more attention, but there was already so much work done by others in this pentad due to its status as RAMSAR site that we deliberately refrained from going there more than twice a year. Others like Quoin Point, was very difficult to reach due to road conditions and distance(120km there and back) and was only visited 3 times in relatively short spells.

Despite covering the Agulhas Plain Pentads extensively in the past 5 years, one soon realized that when birding, a lot has to do with luck. You just happen to be at the right spot at the right time, but as Gary Player once said: "The more you practice, the luckier you get." These 22 pentads have been covered by other very experienced birders over many years as well and therefore we will not only look at data produced by this study but also at SABAP2 data for the area, taking into account that SABAP2 only started in 2007. The resolution for SABAP1 which was conducted from 1987 till 1991, was the quarter degree grid cell which was much larger areas. A quarter degree grid cell includes 9 pentads and is an area 27,4km x 25km, which means it was not specific enough and therefore we will only compare our data with that collected since 2007 on SABAP2.

Discussing the individual pentads below, species that have not been spotted during the project, but accepted by SABAP2, are highlighted as "**should be accepted only once photographic or bird call proof exists**". This is done simply because in the 5 years of the project, these species have not been recorded at all in the area. It does not mean that these species do not occur or point any fingers at those who recorded it. It simply means that from a scientific point of view, there is still no proof that these species actually

occur in the area. It will help to focus our attention on these species in future. Hopefully this report will prompt birders to come forward with photographic proof of these species.

- The pentads will be discussed from the Northern down to the Southern pentads.

KOSIERSKRAAL PENTAD(3430_1950)

The KOSIERSKRAAL pentad together with the GRASKLOOF pentads are the most northern pentads of the Agulhas Plains. It is special for its hilly and even mountainous terrain towards the Bredasdorp Mountains covered mostly by alien forest, the grassy hills on Kosierskraal farm and rivers such as Boskloof river and Graskloof river. The owner of Kosierskraal, Mick D'alton, is an experienced birder and this lead to some extraordinary ID's in the area.

For this pentad, 3 fieldsheets were submitted to SABAP2 and 92 species recorded for the project. SABAP2 has 98 species recorded for the pentad. The 6 species not recorded so far are all relatively common in the Agulhas Plains accept for Neddicky which has not been identified in this project. If Neddicky does occur in the Agulhas Plain, this would be the best habitat to find it(To be discussed later).

Together with Graskloof Pentad, this is the best pentad for finding interesting raptors, especially in Summer. The raptors recorded for this pentad, include: African Fish-Eagle, African Harrier Hawk, African Marsh-Harrier, Black-shouldered Kite, European Honey-Buzzard, Jackal Buzzard, Martial Eagle, Rock Kestrel, Rufous-chested Sparrowhawk, Steppe Buzzard and Yellow-billed Kite. Raptors reported but not confirmed(by picture or SABAP2 scrutiny): Amur Falcon, Pale Chanting Goshawk.

New species recorded for this pentad in 2014 include: African Dusky Flycatcher, African Fish-Eagle, African Marsh-Harrier, Black Crake, Cape Batis, Capped Wheatear, Karoo Scrub-Robin, Lesser Honeyguide, Long-billed Pipit, Orange-breasted Sunbird, Southern Double-Collared Sunbird, Spotted Thicknee, Streaky-headed Seedeater and Yellow Bishop,

BIRDING HOTSPOTS FOR THIS PENTAD IS:

The secondary gravel roads through the pentad for raptors

Kosierskraal farm (private)

The Final birdlist for this pentad (3440_1950):

Kosierskraal 3430_1950

African Black Duck	Denham's Bustard
African Darter	Egyptian Goose
African Dusky Flycatcher	European Honey Buzzard
African Fish-Eagle	Fiscal Flycatcher
African Harrier-Hawk	Fork-tailed Drongo
African Hoopoe	Greater Striped Swallow
African Marsh-Harrier	Grey-backed Cisticola
African Pipit	Hadedda Ibis
African Sacred Ibis	Helmeted Guineafowl
African Stonechat	Jackal Buzzard
Agulhas Clapper Lark	Karoo Prinia
Agulhas Long-billed Lark	Karoo Scrub-Robin

Barn Owl	Large-billed Lark
Barn Swallow	Lesser Honeyguide
Bar-throated Apalis	Lesser Swamp-Warbler
Black Crake	Levaillant's Cisticola
Black Saw-wing	Long-billed Pipit
Black-headed Heron	Malachite Sunbird
Black-shouldered Kite	Martial Eagle
Blacksmith Lapwing	Orange-breasted Sunbird
Blue Crane	Pearl-breasted Swallow
Bokmakierie	Pied Starling
Brown-hooded Kingfisher	Plain-backed Pipit
Brown-throated Martin	Red-billed Teal
Burchell's Coucal	Red-capped Lark
Cape Batis	Red-chested Cuckoo
Cape Bulbul	Red-eyed Dove
Cape Canary	Red-knobbed Coot
Cape Crow	Reed Cormorant
Cape Grassbird	Rock Kestrel
Cape Longclaw	Rufous-chested Sparrowhawk
Cape Robin-Chat	Sombre Greenbul
Cape Sparrow	Southern Boubou
Cape Spurfowl	Southern Double-collared Sunbird
Cape Sugarbird	Southern Grey-headed Sparrow
Cape Turtle-Dove	Southern Red Bishop
Cape Wagtail	Speckled Mousebird
Cape Weaver	Spotted Thick-knee
Cape White-eye	Spur-winged Goose
Capped Wheatear	Steppe Buzzard
Cattle Egret	Streaky-headed Seed eater
Cloud Cisticola	Three-banded Plover
Common Starling	White-faced Duck
Common Fiscal	Yellow Bishop
Common Moorhen	Yellow Canary
Common Ostrich	Yellow-billed Duck
Common Quail	Yellow-billed Kite
Crowned Lapwing	Zitting Cisticola

GRASHOEK PENTAD(3430_1955)

The GRASHOEK pentad was only added in 2014 in order to include the catchment area of the GROOTEILAND wetland area just south of Bredasdorp. This pentad includes cultivated land, alien forests, the Grashoek River and some indigenous mountain habitat which so far has been difficult to reach. It also includes large areas of the farm Mierkraal, owned by Ernst/Herman Conradie, a member of the NSMA.

For this pentad, 2 fieldsheets were submitted to SABAP2, both of them recorded in 2014. For the project 80 species were recorded in this pentad compared to the 83 of SABAP2. The 3 species not identified are common in the Agulhas Plains and should be considered valid.

As with Kosierskraal pentad this is a the raptor pentad! Raptors seen here in summer include: Booted Eagle, African Fish-Eagle, Black-shouldered Kite, Forest Buzzard, Jackal Buzzard, Steppe Buzzard and Yellow-billed Kite.

Other interesting species in this pentad are: Secretarybird, Lesser Honeyguide, White Stork, Streaky-headed Seedeater, Southern Grey-headed Sparrow, Red-chested Cuckoo, Pin-tailed Whydah, Klaas's Cuckoo, Denham's Bustard, Common Quail, Burchell's Coucal and African Black Duck.

The author would like to get permission to cover the area more intensely in future as streams in the upper mountainous area could perhaps have Knysna or Victorin's Warbler.

BIRDING HOTSPOTS FOR THIS PENTAD IS:

Grashoek Gravel Road circle route has a variety of habitats for very productive birding.

The Final birdlist for this pentad (3430_1955):

Grashoek 3430_1955

African Black Duck	Fiscal Flycatcher
African Darter	Forest Buzzard
African Fish-Eagle	Fork-tailed Drongo
African Hoopoe	Greater Striped Swallow
African Paradise-Flycatcher	Grey-backed Cisticola
African Pipit	Hadedda Ibis
African Sacred Ibis	Helmeted Guineafowl
African Spoonbill	House Sparrow
African Stonechat	Jackal Buzzard
Agulhas Clapper Lark	Karoo Prinia
Agulhas Long-billed Lark	Klaas's Cuckoo
Barn Swallow	Lesser Honeyguide
Bar-throated Apalis	Levaillant's Cisticola
Black-headed Heron	Malachite Sunbird
Black-shouldered Kite	Pied Starling
Blacksmith Lapwing	Pin-tailed Whydah
Blue Crane	Red-billed Teal
Bokmakierie	Red-capped Lark
Brimstone Canary	Red-chested Cuckoo
Burchell's Coucal	Red-eyed Dove
Cape Bulbul	Red-knobbed Coot
Cape Canary	Reed Cormorant
Cape Crow	Secretarybird
Cape Grassbird	Sombre Greenbul
Cape Sparrow	Southern Boubou
Cape Spurfowl	Southern Double-collared Sunbird
Cape Sugarbird	Southern Grey-headed Sparrow
Cape Turtle-Dove	Southern Red Bishop
Cape Wagtail	Speckled Mousebird
Cape Weaver	Speckled Pigeon
Cape White-eye	Spur-winged Goose
Cardinal Woodpecker	Steppe Buzzard
Cattle Egret	Streaky-headed Seedeater
Common Starling	White Stork
Common Fiscal	White-throated Swallow
Common Moorhen	Yellow Bishop
Common Quail	Yellow Canary

Crowned Lapwing	Yellow-billed Duck
Denham's Bustard	Yellow-billed Kite
Egyptian Goose	Zitting Cisticola

NUWEDAM PENTAD(3435_1935)

The NUWEDAM pentad includes the northern half of Waterford area AGNP and some agricultural land to the north. It includes the Nuwedam, a large dam on the upper Boesmans river. Other rivers in the pentad are: The Wolfgat river which feeds the Ratel river system and the Koks river which also reaches the Ratel river system. The Waterford area has some of the best untouched fynbos in the Western Cape and has recovered very well after the fire damage of a few years ago. The Nuwedam farm has been largely cleared of alien forest and developed into a state of the art dairy farm.

For this pentad 5 fieldsheets were submitted for the project and 92 species recorded. SABAP2 has 103 species recorded for this pentad(including the 92), all of which should be valid as the extras are all common in the Agulhas Plain.

New species identified for the pentad in 2014: African Darter, African Paradise-Flycatcher, African Pipit, Agulhas Clapper Lark, Barn Swallow, Greater Striped Swallow, Little Rush-Warbler, Long-Billed Pipit, Sombre Greenbul, Steppe Buzzard, White Stork, White-throated Swallow, Yellow Canary and Zitting Cisticola.

The best birding is on the farm Nuwedam(which includes the dam) and the surrounding cultivated land. The cottage on the dam has a resident Greater Honeyguide in the alien forest behind the cottage. Martial Eagle has been reported but not confirmed. Other raptors which makes this a pentad worth visiting is: African Fish-Eagle, African Harrier-Hawk, African Marsh-Harrier, Black Harrier, Black Sparrow-Hawk, Black-Shouldered Kite, Jackal Buzzard, Steppe Buzzard and Yellow-billed Kite.

BIRDING HOTSPOTS FOR THIS PENTAD IS:

Nuwedam Cottage(Private)

Waterford Farm (AGNP) for fynbos species like Orange-breasted Sunbird.

The Final birdlist for this pentad (3435_1935:

Nuwedam 3435_1935

African Darter	Fork-tailed Drongo
African Dusky Flycatcher	Greater Double-collared Sunbird
African Fish-Eagle	Greater Honeyguide
African Harrier-Hawk	Greater Striped Swallow
African Hoopoe	Grey-backed Cisticola
African Marsh-Harrier	Hadedda Ibis
African Paradise-Flycatcher	Helmeted Guineafowl
African Pipit	House Sparrow
African Sacred Ibis	Jackal Buzzard
African Spoonbill	Karoo Prinia
African Stonechat	Kelp Gull
Agulhas Clapper Lark	Large-billed Lark
Barn Swallow	Laughing Dove

Bar-throated Apalis	Lesser Swamp-Warbler
Black Harrier	Levaillant's Cisticola
Black Sparrowhawk	Little Grebe
Black-headed Heron	Little Rush-Warbler
Blacksmith Lapwing	Long-billed Pipit
Blue Crane	Malachite Kingfisher
Bokmakierie	Malachite Sunbird
Brimstone Canary	Namaqua Dove
Brown-throated Martin	Orange-breasted Sunbird
Cape Batis	Pied Starling
Cape Bulbul	Plain-backed Pipit
Cape Canary	Red-billed Teal
Cape Crow	Red-capped Lark
Cape Grassbird	Red-eyed Dove
Cape Longclaw	Reed Cormorant
Cape Robin-Chat	Rock Martin
Cape Sparrow	Secretarybird
Cape Spurfowl	Sombre Greenbul
Cape Sugarbird	Southern Boubou
Cape Turtle-Dove	Southern Double-collared Sunbird
Cape Wagtail	Southern Grey-headed Sparrow
Cape Weaver	Southern Red Bishop
Cape White-eye	Speckled Pigeon
Cattle Egret	Spur-winged Goose
Common Starling	Steppe Buzzard
Common Fiscal	White Stork
Common Greenshank	White-breasted Cormorant
Common Ostrich	White-necked Raven
Common Waxbill	White-throated Swallow
Crowned Lapwing	Yellow Bishop
Denham's Bustard	Yellow Canary
Diderick Cuckoo	Yellow-billed Duck
Egyptian Goose	Zitting Cisticola
Fiscal Flycatcher	

VILJOENSHOF PENTAD(3435_1940)

This pentad includes an alien infested area south of Elim. There is a wild flower farm where much is done to remove alien vegetation. The Ratel river and Nuwejaars river have their origins in the vast wilderness in this pentad. It also includes a small part of the Viljoenshof community which is a birding haven.

SABAP2 recorded 94 species for this pentad compared to the 66 of the project. All of the species recorded by SABAP2 should be valid but for Familiar Chat (See discussion later).

New species recorded for the pentad in 2014 includes: Plain-backed Pipit, Reed Cormorant and Southern Red Bishop.

Four SABAP2 field sheets have been submitted for the project .

This is the least accessible pentad in the Agulhas plain with only 2 tracks running through it and therefore possibly the least exciting. This is though the one pentad where the elusive Victorin's Warbler could still be found in the near future.

BIRDING HOTSPOTS FOR THIS PENTAD IS:

Viljoenshof edge with its alien forests

The Final birdlist for this pentad (3435_1940):

Viljoenshof 3435_1940

African Black Duck	Fork-tailed Drongo
African Dusky Flycatcher	Great White Pelican
African Hoopoe	Greater Striped Swallow
African Paradise-Flycatcher	Hadedda Ibis
African Reed-Warbler	Helmeted Guineafowl
African Sacred Ibis	Jackal Buzzard
Barn Owl	Karoo Prinia
Barn Swallow	Lanner Falcon
Bar-throated Apalis	Laughing Dove
Black-headed Heron	Little Rush-Warbler
Blue Crane	Malachite Sunbird
Brimstone Canary	Orange-breasted Sunbird
Cape Batis	Pied Starling
Cape Bulbul	Pin-tailed Whydah
Cape Canary	Plain-backed Pipit
Cape Crow	Red-chested Cuckoo
Cape Grassbird	Red-eyed Dove
Cape Robin-Chat	Reed Cormorant
Cape Sparrow	Rufous-chested Sparrowhawk
Cape Spurfowl	Sombre Greenbul
Cape Sugarbird	Southern Boubou
Cape Turtle-Dove	Southern Double-collared Sunbird
Cape Wagtail	Southern Grey-headed Sparrow
Cape Weaver	Southern Red Bishop
Cape White-eye	Southern Tchagra
Cardinal Woodpecker	Speckled Pigeon
Common Starling	Spotted Eagle-Owl
Common Fiscal	Spur-winged Goose
Common Moorhen	Steppe Buzzard
Common Waxbill	White-necked Raven
Diderick Cuckoo	White-throated Canary
Egyptian Goose	Yellow Bishop
Fiscal Flycatcher	Yellow Canary

ELIM PENTAD(3435_1945)

This pentad includes Elim town, some of the Nuwejaarsrivier wetland system, the Waschkraalvlei area(Dirk Human), alien forests and some cultivated land. There are also 2 large irrigation dams in the pentad, providing water to the vineyards of four wine estates, all of whom have a keen interest in avitourism. This area has a tremendous opportunity for birding tourism to complement its wine tasting. Alien clearing of the Nuwejaarsriver wetland system in this pentad has come a long way and could open up one of the most spectacular areas in the Agulhas plains.

SABAP2 has 150 species listed for this pentad and the project 105. The 45 extra species seen by SABAP2 birders(15 fieldsheets) are all common in the area except for the Neddicky which was once again reported but not confirmed.

New Species identified for this pentad in 2014 includes: African Dusky Flycatcher, African Paradise-Flycatcher, Barn Owl, Black Harrier, Brown-Throated Martin, Cape Batis, Common Quail, Klaas's Cuckoo, Little Rush-Warbler, Little Swift, Pin-tailed Whydah, Red-chested Flufftail, Red-winged Starling, Sombre Greenbul, Southern Double-Collared Sunbird and Water Thicknee.

5 field sheets have been submitted for the project. This is a particularly good LBJ pentad especially along the road towards Die Dam.

The aim is to spend much more time in this pentad in future as the 4 wine estates could exploit avitourism once more accurate data is available.

BIRDING HOTSPOTS FOR THIS PENTAD IS:

Waschkraalvlei (Dirk Human – private)

Elim Road next to Nuwejaarsrivier

Moddervlei irrigation dam

Strandveld irrigation dam and vlei area below it(Red-chested Flufftail)

The Final birdlist for this pentad (3435_1945):

Elim 3435_1945

African Darter	Fork-tailed Drongo
African Dusky Flycatcher	Greater Striped Swallow
African Fish-Eagle	Grey Heron
African Hoopoe	Grey-backed Cisticola
African Marsh-Harrier	Hadedda Ibis
African Paradise-Flycatcher	Hamerkop
African Pipit	Helmeted Guineafowl
African Purple Swamphen	House Sparrow
African Reed-Warbler	Jackal Buzzard
African Sacred Ibis	Karoo Prinia
African Spoonbill	Kelp Gull
African Stonechat	Kittlitz's Plover
Agulhas Clapper Lark	Klaas's Cuckoo
Agulhas Long-billed Lark	Large-billed Lark
Banded Martin	Lesser Swamp-Warbler
Barn Owl	Levaillant's Cisticola
Barn Swallow	Little Egret
Black Crake	Little Grebe
Black-headed Heron	Malachite Kingfisher
Black-shouldered Kite	Malachite Sunbird
Blacksmith Lapwing	Namaqua Dove
Black-winged Stilt	Pearl-breasted Swallow
Blue Crane	Pied Starling

Bokmakierie	Pin-tailed Whydah
Brimstone Canary	Plain-backed Pipit
Brown-throated Martin	Purple Heron
Burchell's Coucal	Red-billed Teal
Cape Batis	Red-capped Lark
Cape Bulbul	Red-chested Flufftail
Cape Canary	Red-eyed Dove
Cape Crow	Red-knobbed Coot
Cape Grassbird	Red-winged Starling
Cape Longclaw	Reed Cormorant
Cape Robin-Chat	Rock Martin
Cape Shoveler	Sombre Greenbul
Cape Sparrow	Southern Boubou
Cape Spurfowl	Southern Grey-headed Sparrow
Cape Sugarbird	Southern Double-collared Sunbird
Cape Turtle-Dove	Southern Masked-Weaver
Cape Wagtail	Southern Red Bishop
Cape Weaver	Speckled Mousebird
Cape White-eye	Speckled Pigeon
Capped Wheatear	Spotted Thick-knee
Cattle Egret	Spur-winged Goose
Cloud Cisticola	Steppe Buzzard
Common Starling	Three-banded Plover
Common Fiscal	Water Thick-knee
Common Greenshank	White-breasted Cormorant
Common Moorhen	White-faced Duck
Common Ostrich	White-rumped Swift
Common Quail	White-throated Swallow
Common Swift	Yellow Bishop
Common Waxbill	Yellow Canary
Crowned Lapwing	Yellow-billed Duck
Denham's Bustard	Yellow-billed Egret
Diderick Cuckoo	Yellow-billed Kite
Egyptian Goose	Zitting Cisticola
Fiscal Flycatcher	

BO-VOËLVLEI PENTAD (3435_1950)

This pentad includes the Northern part of Voelvlei, Langvlei, the eastern tip of Waschkraalvlei and a few unnamed vleis and dams in and around the Nuwejaarsrivier wetland. There are some agricultural land which delivers well on LBJ's. The farms Haasvlakte and Elandsdrift falls into this pentad and owners have been very accommodating to allow for extensive birding.

SABAP has listed 139 species for this pentad and the project stands at 105 species.

New species identified in 2014 for this pentad includes: African Paradise-Flycatcher, Black Stork, Black-Crowned Night-Heron, Common Ringed Plover, Fiscal Flycatcher, Fork-tailed Drongo, Greater Crested Grebe, Little Grebe, Little Rush-Warbler, Long-billed Pipit, Pied Kingfisher, Southern Boubou, Southern Grey-headed Sparrow, Speckled Mousebird and White-rumped Swift.

4 Field sheets have been submitted to SABAP thus far during the project. 15 new species was added by one fieldsheet admitted to SABAP, some of which of which seems suspect. It is suggested that this list be investigated. Great Egret, Yellow-billed Egret, African Goshawk, Red-billed Quela, Cape Clapper Lark, Spike-heeled Lark, Wattled Starling and White-winged Tern are listed on one chart, all of whom are extremely rare or has not been seen in the area in 5 years. All of these species seemed to have been identified on one day which seems unlikely and there are other species with which they could be confused. Apart from these 8 species, the other 26 species occur in the Agulhas plains and should be accepted.

BIRDING HOTSPOTS FOR THIS PENTAD IS:

Elandsdrift(Johan de Kock) Northern entrance to Voelvlei(Private).

Bo-Voelvlei farm(Hadre Pratt) on Voelvlei.

Langvlei

The Final birdlist for this pentad (3435_1950):

BO-VOELVLEI 3435_1950

African Darter	Greater Striped Swallow
African Fish-Eagle	Grey Heron
African Marsh-Harrier	Grey-backed Cisticola
African Paradise-Flycatcher	Hadedda Ibis
African Pipit	Helmeted Guineafowl
African Purple Swamphen	Hottentot Teal
African Sacred Ibis	House Sparrow
African Spoonbill	Jackal Buzzard
African Stonechat	Kelp Gull
Agulhas Long-billed Lark	Kittlitz's Plover
Barn Swallow	Lanner Falcon
Black Crake	Large-billed Lark
Black Stork	Lesser Swamp-Warbler
Black-crowned Night-Heron	Levaillant's Cisticola
Black-headed Heron	Little Egret
Black-shouldered Kite	Little Grebe
Blacksmith Lapwing	Little Rush-Warbler
Black-winged Stilt	Little Stint
Blue Crane	Long-billed Pipit
Bokmakierie	Malachite Kingfisher
Brimstone Canary	Malachite Sunbird
Brown-throated Martin	Pied Avocet
Cape Bulbul	Pied Kingfisher
Cape Canary	Pied Starling
Cape Crow	Plain-backed Pipit
Cape Longclaw	Purple Heron
Cape Robin-Chat	Red-billed Teal
Cape Shoveler	Red-capped Lark
Cape Sparrow	Red-eyed Dove
Cape Spurfowl	Red-knobbed Coot
Cape Teal	Reed Cormorant
Cape Turtle-Dove	Rock Kestrel
Cape Wagtail	Ruff
Cape Weaver	South African Shelduck

Capped Wheatear	Southern Boubou
Cattle Egret	Southern Grey-headed Sparrow
Cloud Cisticola	Southern Pochard
Common Starling	Southern Red Bishop
Common Fiscal	Speckled Mousebird
Common Moorhen	Speckled Pigeon
Common Ostrich	Spur-winged Goose
Common Ringed Plover	Steppe Buzzard
Common Waxbill	Three-banded Plover
Crowned Lapwing	Water Thick-knee
Curlew Sandpiper	White-breasted Cormorant
Denham's Bustard	White-rumped Swift
Egyptian Goose	White-throated Swallow
Fiscal Flycatcher	Yellow Bishop
Fork-tailed Drongo	Yellow Canary
Glossy Ibis	Yellow-billed Duck
Great Crested Grebe	Yellow-billed Kite
Great White Pelican	Zitting Cisticola
Greater Flamingo	

HEUNINGRUG PENTAD(3435_1955)

This pentad is mostly farm land(Heuningrug, Valsfontein and Mierkraal), but includes a southern tip of the Nuwejaarsrivier system which has been very lucrative for water birds. The Grashoek river traverses the north-eastern end of the pentad. Access to the farms have improved which meant better data for this pentad. The Heuningrug(the hill) itself has not been covered and might produce some specials in future. The farm Mierkraal has a heronry on the Grashoek river.

SABAP2 has recorded a total of 123 species for this pentad and the project stands at 107 species. The only species that need confirmation is African Goshawk and Cape Clapper Lark(to be discussed later).

New species recorded in 2014 includes: Black Sparrowhawk, Black-Crowned Night-Heron, Cape Batis, Lanner Falcon, Secretarybird and Streaky-headed Seedeater.

4 Field sheets have been submitted to SABAP2 for this project. This pentad has produced some spectacular views of raptors notably a Black Sparrowhawk catching a Blacksmith Lapwing. The best birding in this pentad is in the vicinity of Mierkraal and the Southern tip of the pentad which produces waterbirds when heavy rainfall has been experienced.

BIRDING HOTSPOTS FOR THIS PENTAD IS:

Mierkraal farm(Herman Conradie) and heronry on Grashoek river

Zandvlakte Guest House garden(Con Neethling – private)

Nuwejaarsrivier near Heuningrug farm(Deidre Snijders-private)

The Final birdlist for this pentad (3435_1955):

Heuningrug 3435_1955

Acacia Pied Barbet	Hadedda Ibis
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African Black Duck	Helmeted Guineafowl
African Darter	House Sparrow
African Fish-Eagle	Jackal Buzzard
African Hoopoe	Karoo Prinia
African Paradise-Flycatcher	Kelp Gull
African Pipit	Kittlitz's Plover
African Sacred Ibis	Lanner Falcon
African Snipe	Large-billed Lark
African Stonechat	Laughing Dove
Agulhas Clapper Lark	Levaillant's Cisticola
Agulhas Long-billed Lark	Little Grebe
Barn Swallow	Little Rush-Warbler
Bar-throated Apalis	Long-billed Pipit
Black Harrier	Malachite Kingfisher
Black Sparrowhawk	Malachite Sunbird
Black-crowned Night-Heron	Marsh Sandpiper
Black-headed Heron	Namaqua Dove
Black-shouldered Kite	Pied Starling
Blacksmith Lapwing	Pin-tailed Whydah
Black-winged Stilt	Plain-backed Pipit
Blue Crane	Purple Heron
Bokmakierie	Red-billed Teal
Brimstone Canary	Red-capped Lark
Burchell's Coucal	Red-eyed Dove
Cape Batis	Red-knobbed Coot
Cape Bulbul	Reed Cormorant
Cape Canary	Secretarybird
Cape Crow	Sombre Greenbul
Cape Robin-Chat	Southern Boubou
Cape Shoveler	Southern Double-collared Sunbird
Cape Sparrow	Southern Red Bishop
Cape Spurfowl	Speckled Mousebird
Cape Sugarbird	Speckled Pigeon
Cape Turtle-Dove	Spotted Thick-knee
Cape Wagtail	Spur-winged Goose
Cape Weaver	Steppe Buzzard
Cape White-eye	Streaky-headed Seedeater
Capped Wheatear	Terek Sandpiper
Cardinal Woodpecker	Three-banded Plover
Cattle Egret	Water Thick-knee
Common Starling	White Stork
Common Fiscal	White-faced Duck
Common Moorhen	White-rumped Swift
Common Ostrich	White-throated Canary
Common Waxbill	White-throated Swallow
Crowned Lapwing	Yellow Bishop
Denham's Bustard	Yellow Canary
Diderick Cuckoo	Yellow-billed Duck
Egyptian Goose	Yellow-billed Egret
Fiscal Flycatcher	Yellow-billed Kite
Fork-tailed Drongo	Zitting Cisticola
Greater Striped Swallow	
Grey Heron	

GROOTEILAND PENTAD(3435_2000)

This pentad is made up of the farm Zeekoeivlei(Pieter Albertyn), Klipfontein(Northern tip) and the wetland to the north(Karsrivierlei). This wetland has some of the best birding on the Agulhas plains . Birding along the Bredasdorp/Struisbaai tar road is very good in the wet season and can produce wonderful photographic opportunity. The area includes Varkvlei and a system of man-made canals criss-crossing the pentad. There is almost always water bodies on which a variety of birds can be found. A heronry is a special feature of this pentad.

SABAP's official list has 135 species recorded for this pentad and the project stands at 109 species. All of these SABAP species should be valid with the exception of Lesser Kestrel, Osprey, Neddicky and Olive Woodpecker. These species(all of whom can be confused with other common species) were not seen during the project and should be confirmed by photographic proof.

7 field sheets have been submitted to SABAP2 for the project.

New species identified during 2014 for this pentad includes: Cape Vulture, Common Ringed Plover, Curlew Sandpiper, Hamerkop, Ruff, White-breasted Cormorant and Zitting Cisticola.

This is the only pentad in the Agulhas plains with a proven ID of Cape vulture for this project. The pans in this pentad is visited yearly by large numbers of Whiskered Tern in breeding plumage. Do they actually breed here?

BIRDING HOTSPOTS FOR THIS PENTAD IS:

Bredasdorp-Struisbaai Road. In this pentad the road crosses through a wetland caused by Karsrivier and ? Grashoekrivier.

Bonteboksvlei (private land) where the original Bontebok National Park use to be.

Varkvlei and the canals and rivers on Zeekoevlei farm(private land).

The Final birdlist for this pentad (3435_2000):

Groote-Eiland 3435_2000

Acacia Pied Barbet	Hadeda Ibis
African Darter	Hamerkop
African Fish-Eagle	Helmeted Guineafowl
African Marsh-Harrier	House Sparrow
African Pipit	Jackal Buzzard
African Purple Swamphen	Karoo Prinia
African Sacred Ibis	Kelp Gull
African Spoonbill	Klaas's Cuckoo
African Stonechat	Large-billed Lark
Agulhas Long-billed Lark	Lesser Swamp-Warbler
Barn Swallow	Levaillant's Cisticola
Bar-throated Apalis	Little Egret
Black Harrier	Little Grebe
Black-crowned Night-Heron	Little Rush-Warbler

Black-headed Heron	Little Stint
Black-necked Grebe	Malachite Sunbird
Black-shouldered Kite	Pearl-breasted Swallow
Blacksmith Lapwing	Pied Avocet
Black-winged Stilt	Pied Kingfisher
Blue Crane	Pied Starling
Bokmakierie	Pin-tailed Whydah
Brimstone Canary	Purple Heron
Cape Bulbul	Red-billed Teal
Cape Crow	Red-capped Lark
Cape Longclaw	Red-eyed Dove
Cape Robin-Chat	Red-knobbed Coot
Cape Shoveler	Reed Cormorant
Cape Sparrow	Rock Kestrel
Cape Spurfowl	Ruff
Cape Turtle-Dove	Secretarybird
Cape Vulture	Sombre Greenbul
Cape Wagtail	South African Shelduck
Cape Weaver	Southern Double-collared Sunbird
Cape White-eye	Southern Grey-headed Sparrow
Capped Wheatear	Southern Red Bishop
Cattle Egret	Southern Tchagra
Common Starling	Speckled Mousebird
Common Fiscal	Speckled Pigeon
Common Moorhen	Spotted Eagle-Owl
Common Ostrich	Spur-winged Goose
Common Ringed Plover	Steppe Buzzard
Common Waxbill	Three-banded Plover
Crowned Lapwing	Whiskered Tern
Curlew Sandpiper	White Stork
Denham's Bustard	White-breasted Cormorant
Egyptian Goose	White-faced Duck
Fiscal Flycatcher	White-throated Canary
Fork-tailed Drongo	White-throated Swallow
Giant Kingfisher	Yellow Bishop
Glossy Ibis	Yellow Canary
Great White Pelican	Yellow-billed Duck
Greater Striped Swallow	Yellow-billed Kite
Grey Heron	Zitting Cisticola
Grey Plover	
Grey-backed Cisticola	
Grey-headed Gull	

PRINCEKRAAL PENTAD(3435_2005)

This pentad is mostly agricultural land but is well reported probably because it is traversed by many roads which makes access easier. It includes farms such as Prinskraal, Droërivier and Meulvlei . This was the first year that we had access to Prinskraal. The many roads in the area though, passes most of the habitat in the region.

The Karsrivier ends in this pentad into a flood plain which means that in the rainy season there are water bodies everywhere. Large parts of the pentad is covered by alien plantation which delivers on species typical of this habitat.

SABAP has 137 species recorded for this pentad. The project stands at 97 species. All of the SABAP2 species should be accepted with the exception of African Goshawk, African Grass-Owl, Karoo Korhaan, all of whom need to be confirmed with pictures or call recording.

New species recorded in 2014 includes: Cape Longclaw, Cloud Cisticola, Little Grebe, Southern Double-collared Sunbird and Southern Grey-headed Sparrow.

5 field sheets have been submitted to SABAP2.

BIRDING HOTSPOTS FOR THIS PENTAD IS:

Birding is mostly done from the various gravel roads that pass through the pentad.

The Final birdlist for this pentad (3435_2005):

Princekraal 3435_2005

Acacia Pied Barbet	Jackal Buzzard
African Fish-Eagle	Karoo Prinia
African Hoopoe	Kelp Gull
African Pipit	Kittlitz's Plover
African Sacred Ibis	Lanner Falcon
African Spoonbill	Large-billed Lark
Agulhas Long-billed Lark	Laughing Dove
Barn Swallow	Little Egret
Black-headed Heron	Little Grebe
Blacksmith Lapwing	Little Stint
Black-winged Stilt	Malachite Sunbird
Blue Crane	Marabou Stork
Bokmakierie	Pearl-breasted Swallow
Brimstone Canary	Pied Avocet
Cape Bulbul	Pied Starling
Cape Canary	Pin-tailed Whydah
Cape Crow	Plain-backed Pipit
Cape Longclaw	Red-billed Teal
Cape Robin-Chat	Red-capped Lark
Cape Shoveler	Red-eyed Dove
Cape Sparrow	Red-faced Mousebird
Cape Spurfowl	Red-knobbed Coot
Cape Sugarbird	Reed Cormorant
Cape Teal	Rock Kestrel
Cape Turtle-Dove	Sombre Greenbul
Cape Wagtail	South African Shelduck
Cape Weaver	Southern Boubou
Cape White-eye	Southern Double-collared Sunbird
Capped Wheatear	Southern Grey-headed Sparrow
Cardinal Woodpecker	Southern Masked-Weaver
Cattle Egret	Southern Pochard
Cloud Cisticola	Southern Red Bishop
Common Starling	Southern Tchagra
Common Fiscal	Speckled Mousebird
Common Ostrich	Speckled Pigeon

Common Waxbill	Spotted Eagle-Owl
Crowned Lapwing	Spotted Thick-knee
Denham's Bustard	Spur-winged Goose
Diderick Cuckoo	Steppe Buzzard
Egyptian Goose	Three-banded Plover
Fiscal Flycatcher	White Stork
Forest Buzzard	White-rumped Swift
Fork-tailed Drongo	White-throated Canary
Greater Flamingo	White-throated Swallow
Greater Striped Swallow	Yellow Canary
Grey Heron	Yellow-billed Duck
Grey-backed Cisticola	Yellow-billed Kite
Haded a Ibis	Zitting Cisticola
Helmeted Guinea fowl	
House Sparrow	

WATERFORD PENTAD(3440_1935)

The Waterford pentad includes the southern half of AGNP Waterford, the wetland/vlei north of Die Dam and a small coastal area at Buffelsjag. It also includes the farm Koks river below the Waterford AGNP. It includes the origin of the Koks river and a third of the Haelkraals river in the north-west of the pentad. The Maccao vlei in the south-eastern tip of the pentad has been cleared of alien vegetation and should form part of the AGNP birding development plans.

SABAP has listed 101 species for this pentad and the project listed 78 species . All of these should be accepted with the exception of Cape Clapper Lark and Neddicky which needs to be confirmed by picture or call.

New species identified during 2014 for this pentad includes: African Darter, Black Crake, Black Harrier, Black-winged Stilt, Blue Crane, Cape Spurfowl, Cattle Egret, Common Whimbrel and White-necked Raven.

5 field sheets have been submitted to SABAP for the project.

BIRDING HOTSPOTS FOR THIS PENTAD IS:

Waterford Farmstead – Orange Breasted Sunbird

Koksrivier farm and river(private land)

Maccaovlei in the South-Eastern part of the pentad

The Final birdlist for this pentad (3440_1950):

Waterford 3440_1935

African Black Oystercatcher	Fiscal Flycatcher
African Darter	Fork-tailed Drongo
African Hoopoe	Great Crested Grebe
African Marsh-Harrier	Grey Heron
African Paradise-Flycatcher	Grey-backed Cisticola
African Pipit	Haded a Ibis
African Sacred Ibis	Hartlaub's Gull
African Spoonbill	Helmeted Guinea fowl

African Stonechat	Jackal Buzzard
Barn Swallow	Karoo Prinia
Black Crake	Kelp Gull
Black Harrier	Lesser Swamp-Warbler
Black-headed Heron	Little Egret
Black-necked Grebe	Little Grebe
Black-winged Stilt	Long-billed Pipit
Blue Crane	Maccoa Duck
Bokmakierie	Malachite Sunbird
Brimstone Canary	Orange-breasted Sunbird
Cape Batis	Plain-backed Pipit
Cape Bulbul	Red-billed Teal
Cape Canary	Red-eyed Dove
Cape Cormorant	Red-knobbed Coot
Cape Crow	Red-winged Starling
Cape Grassbird	Rock Kestrel
Cape Robin-Chat	Southern Boubou
Cape Shoveler	Southern Double-collared Sunbird
Cape Sparrow	Southern Pochard
Cape Spurfowl	Speckled Mousebird
Cape Sugarbird	Speckled Pigeon
Cape Turtle-Dove	Spur-winged Goose
Cape Wagtail	Streaky-headed Seedeater
Cape Weaver	Swift Tern
Capped Wheatear	Three-banded Plover
Cattle Egret	Whiskered Tern
Common Starling	White-breasted Cormorant
Common Fiscal	White-fronted Plover
Common Ostrich	White-necked Raven
Common Whimbrel	Yellow Bishop
Crowned Lapwing	Yellow Canary
Egyptian Goose	Yellow-billed Duck

WOLVENGAT PENTAD(3440_1940)

This pentad includes the Ratel river wetland area(which includes the Ratelrivier farmstead) and western half of the Melkbospan, Rietfontein pan as well as the Wolvengat settlement. It also includes Gonnaskraal and DirkUyskraal farm, which has not been accessible this year. A large part of the Ratel river is in this pentad and great progress has been made in the rehabilitation of the wetland. This wetland has massive potential for attracting a wide range of species in future. The waterbodies North of Ratelrivier could be potential bird hide spots. Currently accessibility is a problem. The vlei in the south-west corner of the pentad is another potential birdhide site, but is currently inaccessible.

SABAP2 has 110 species for this pentad currently. The project stands at 86 species. All of the species listed should be valid except for the Neddicky(as previously discussed).

New species identified for this pentad in 2014 includes: African Paradise Flycatcher, Agulhas Clapper Lark, Blue-cheeked Bee-eater(vagrant), Hamerkop, Karoo Scrub-Robin, Malachite Kingfisher, Red-knobbed Coot, Secretarybird, Sombre Greenbul, Spotted Thicknee and White-throated Canary.

4 Field sheets have been submitted to SABAP.

BIRDING HOTSPOTS FOR THIS PENTAD IS:

Wolvengat Settlement

Ratelrivier Homestead and gardens

Uintjieskuil dam and alien forest.

Natural fountain West of Ratelrivier

The Final birdlist for this pentad (3440_1940):

Wolvengat 3440_1940

African Dusky Flycatcher	Fiscal Flycatcher
African Hoopoe	Fork-tailed Drongo
African Marsh-Harrier	Greater Flamingo
African Paradise-Flycatcher	Grey-backed Cisticola
African Pipit	Hadedda Ibis
African Sacred Ibis	Hamerkop
African Stonechat	Helmeted Guineafowl
Agulhas Clapper Lark	Jackal Buzzard
Agulhas Long-billed Lark	Karoo Prinia
Barn Owl	Karoo Scrub-Robin
Barn Swallow	Kelp Gull
Black Crake	Klaas's Cuckoo
Black-headed Heron	Large-billed Lark
Black-shouldered Kite	Laughing Dove
Blacksmith Lapwing	Levaillant's Cisticola
Blue Crane	Little Grebe
Blue-cheeked Bee-eater	Little Rush-Warbler
Bokmakierie	Malachite Kingfisher
Brimstone Canary	Malachite Sunbird
Brown-hooded Kingfisher	Olive Thrush
Brown-throated Martin	Pied Starling
Cape Batis	Pin-tailed Whydah
Cape Bulbul	Red-billed Teal
Cape Canary	Red-capped Lark
Cape Crow	Red-chested Cuckoo
Cape Grassbird	Red-eyed Dove
Cape Longclaw	Red-knobbed Coot
Cape Robin-Chat	Reed Cormorant
Cape Shoveler	Rock Kestrel
Cape Sparrow	Secretarybird
Cape Spurfowl	Sombre Greenbul
Cape Sugarbird	Southern Boubou
Cape Turtle-Dove	Southern Double-collared Sunbird
Cape Wagtail	Southern Grey-headed Sparrow
Cape Weaver	Southern Red Bishop
Cape White-eye	Southern Tchagra
Capped Wheatear	Speckled Pigeon
Cattle Egret	Spotted Thick-knee
Common Starling	Spur-winged Goose
Common Fiscal	Steppe Buzzard
Common Ostrich	Three-banded Plover

Common Waxbill	White-throated Canary
Crowned Lapwing	Yellow Bishop
Denham's Bustard	Yellow Canary
Diderick Cuckoo	Yellow-billed Duck
Egyptian Goose	

RIETFONTEIN PENTAD(3440_1945)

This pentad will always be a major birding destination in the AGNP due to the Melkbospan and Rietfontein pan and homestead. Hottentot Buttonquail will always be a major attraction in this pentad as it probably is the most reliable spot in SA to find this rare species. The fountain next to the Melkbospan could be an excellent site for a birdhide and should probably be combined with a hide on the pan itself. A boardwalk without railing should lead birders to the hides.

SABAP2 has 133 species listed for this pentad, the project stands at 118. All of the listed species should be valid except for Familiar Chat, Cape Clapper Lark, Spike-heeled Lark and Alpine Swift. The above 4 should be confirmed with a picture or call record.

New Species recorded for this pentad in 2014 includes: Brimstone Canary, Brown-hooded Kingfisher, Grey Heron, Kelp Gull, Little Rush-Warbler, Long-billed Pipit, Plain-backed Pipit, Rock Kestrel, Ruff, Spotted Thicknee, White Stork and Zitting Cisticola.

7 Field sheets have been submitted to SABAP for the project.

BIRDING HOTSPOTS FOR THIS PENTAD IS:

Vlooiakraal(Liohan Gilliomee) and Riverside gravel road(private)

Gravel road towards Rietfontein. Larks! Agulhas Long-billed and Clapper.

Melkbospan and fountain (Flamingo and waders)

Rietfontein pan 1 and 2 and fynbos in the area. (Hottentot Buttonquail)

Rietfontein Cottage.

The Final birdlist for this pentad (3440_1945):

Rietfontein 3440_1945

African Dusky Flycatcher	Greater Flamingo
African Fish-Eagle	Greater Striped Swallow
African Hoopoe	Grey Heron
African Marsh-Harrier	Grey-backed Cisticola
African Openbill	Hadeda Ibis
African Paradise-Flycatcher	Helmeted Guineafowl
African Pipit	Hottentot Buttonquail
African Sacred Ibis	House Sparrow
African Snipe	Jackal Buzzard
African Spoonbill	Karoo Prinia
African Stonechat	Karoo Scrub-Robin

Agulhas Clapper Lark	Kelp Gull
Agulhas Long-billed Lark	Kittlitz's Plover
Barn Swallow	Lanner Falcon
Bar-throated Apalis	Large-billed Lark
Black Harrier	Laughing Dove
Black Saw-wing	Levaillant's Cisticola
Black-headed Heron	Little Grebe
Black-shouldered Kite	Little Rush-Warbler
Blacksmith Lapwing	Long-billed Pipit
Black-winged Stilt	Malachite Sunbird
Blue Crane	Namaqua Dove
Bokmakierie	Orange-breasted Sunbird
Brimstone Canary	Pied Avocet
Brown-hooded Kingfisher	Pied Starling
Burchell's Coucal	Pin-tailed Whydah
Cape Batis	Plain-backed Pipit
Cape Bulbul	Red-billed Teal
Cape Bunting	Red-capped Lark
Cape Canary	Red-eyed Dove
Cape Crow	Red-knobbed Coot
Cape Grassbird	Reed Cormorant
Cape Longclaw	Rock Kestrel
Cape Robin-Chat	Ruff
Cape Shoveler	Rufous-chested Sparrowhawk
Cape Sparrow	Sombre Greenbul
Cape Spurfowl	South African Shelduck
Cape Sugarbird	Southern Boubou
Cape Teal	Southern Double-collared Sunbird
Cape Turtle-Dove	Southern Grey-headed Sparrow
Cape Wagtail	Southern Masked-Weaver
Cape Weaver	Southern Red Bishop
Cape White-eye	Speckled Mousebird
Capped Wheatear	Speckled Pigeon
Cattle Egret	Spotted Eagle-Owl
Cloud Cisticola	Spotted Thick-knee
Common Starling	Spur-winged Goose
Common Fiscal	Steppe Buzzard
Common Greenshank	Streaky-headed Seedeater
Common Moorhen	Three-banded Plover
Common Ostrich	Whiskered Tern
Common Waxbill	White Stork
Crowned Lapwing	White-necked Raven
Denham's Bustard	White-throated Swallow
Diderick Cuckoo	Yellow Bishop
Egyptian Goose	Yellow Canary
Fiscal Flycatcher	Yellow-billed Duck
Fork-tailed Drongo	Yellow-billed Kite
Great Crested Grebe	Zitting Cisticola

Voelvlei Pentad includes the farms bordering Voelvlei which belongs to Dirkie/Diko Swart and Urban/Hadre Pratt, as well as the Bergplaas and Springfield farms of AGNP. It also includes the largest portion of the Anysberg, the western edge of Springfield Saltpan and the dams west of the Brandfontein road.

The removal of aliens next to the Brandfontein road has caused the breeding colony of Caspian Terns to leave about 3 years ago. The area is now better protected from the road as the vegetation has rehabilitated, but unfortunately the Caspians have not returned.

SABAP2 has recorded 123 species for this pentad and the project 106. All the listed species should be accepted with the exception of Banded Martin, Cape Clapper Lark, and White-winged Tern. Photographic proof should be presented for these species.

New species identified for this pentad in 2014 includes: Bar-throated Apalis, Chestnut-banded Plover and Sombre Greenbul.

6 Field sheets have been submitted to SABAP2 for the project.

BIRDING HOTSPOTS FOR THIS PENTAD IS:

Voelvlei (Private land-Diko Swart/Urban Pratt)

Anysberg for fynbos species.

Springfield dams west of gravel road

Western tip of Springfield Saltpan.

The Final birdlist for this pentad (3440_1950):

Voelvlei 3440_1950

African Darter	Denham's Bustard
African Fish-Eagle	Egyptian Goose
African Hoopoe	Fork-tailed Drongo
African Marsh-Harrier	Glossy Ibis
African Pipit	Great Crested Grebe
African Purple Swamphen	Great White Pelican
African Sacred Ibis	Greater Flamingo
African Snipe	Greater Striped Swallow
African Spoonbill	Grey Heron
African Stonechat	Grey-backed Cisticola
Agulhas Clapper Lark	Grey-winged Francolin
Agulhas Long-billed Lark	Hadedda Ibis
Barn Swallow	Helmeted Guineafowl
Bar-throated Apalis	Jackal Buzzard
Black Harrier	Karoo Prinia
Black-headed Heron	Karoo Scrub-Robin
Black-shouldered Kite	Kelp Gull
Blacksmith Lapwing	Kittlitz's Plover
Black-winged Stilt	Large-billed Lark
Blue Crane	Lesser Swamp-Warbler

Bokmakierie	Levaillant's Cisticola
Brimstone Canary	Little Egret
Brown-throated Martin	Little Grebe
Burchell's Coucal	Little Stint
Cape Batis	Long-billed Pipit
Cape Bulbul	Malachite Sunbird
Cape Canary	Namaqua Dove
Cape Crow	Orange-breasted Sunbird
Cape Grassbird	Pied Kingfisher
Cape Longclaw	Pied Starling
Cape Robin-Chat	Red-billed Teal
Cape Shoveler	Red-capped Lark
Cape Sparrow	Red-eyed Dove
Cape Spurfowl	Red-knobbed Coot
Cape Sugarbird	Reed Cormorant
Cape Teal	Sombre Greenbul
Cape Turtle-Dove	South African Shelduck
Cape Wagtail	Southern Boubou
Cape Weaver	Southern Grey-headed Sparrow
Cape White-eye	Southern Red Bishop
Capped Wheatear	Speckled Pigeon
Cattle Egret	Spur-winged Goose
Chestnut-banded Plover	Steppe Buzzard
Cloud Cisticola	Three-banded Plover
Common Starling	Wattled Starling
Common Fiscal	White-breasted Cormorant
Common Greenshank	White-necked Raven
Common Moorhen	White-throated Swallow
Common Ostrich	Yellow Bishop
Common Ringed Plover	Yellow Canary
Common Waxbill	Yellow-billed Duck
Crowned Lapwing	Yellow-billed Kite
Curlew Sandpiper	Zitting Cisticola

ZOETENDALSVLEI PENTAD(3440_1955)

The Zoetendalsvlei pentad includes part of the Springfield Saltpan, Soutbos pan, the Zoetendalsvlei perimeter, Nuwejaarsriver up to Wiesdrif, cultivated land near Wiesdrif and the first kilometer of the Heuningnesrivier on the farm Visserdrift(Johannes Uys) . This is certainly the most exciting birding destination in the AGNP and Nuwejaarsrivier SMA. Extensive removal of aliens has changed the landscape dramatically for the better.

SABAP2 has listed an impressive 167 species for this pentad, the project stands at 138. All of the listed species should be valid with the exception of Alpine Swift, African Black Oystercatcher, Cape Clapper Lark, Grey Plover, Neddicky, Red-billed Quella, and White-winged Tern. Photographic proof of these species need to be produced(See Cape Clapper Lark under species) for verification.

New species for the pentad seen 2014: Cape White-eye, Common Sandpiper, Fiscal Flycatcher and Spotted Eagle-Owl.

So far 9 Field sheets have been submitted to SABAP2.

BIRDING HOTSPOTS FOR THIS PENTAD IS:

Veldwagters Hut access to Zoetendalsvlei

Biocontrol entrance and track to Nuwejaars river

Soutbos pan (and others in wet season)

Soutbos entrance to Nuwejaarsrivier and Northern side of river

Springfield Saltpans

Wiesdrift and surrounding wetland.

Visserdrift farm access to Zoetendals vlei (Private)

The Final birdlist for this pentad (3440_1955):

Zoetendalsvlei 3440_1955

African Darter	Hadeda Ibis
African Fish-Eagle	Helmeted Guineafowl
African Hoopoe	Hottentot Teal
African Marsh-Harrier	House Sparrow
African Pipit	Jackal Buzzard
African Purple Swamphen	Karoo Prinia
African Rail	Karoo Scrub-Robin
African Reed-Warbler	Kelp Gull
African Sacred Ibis	Kittlitz's Plover
African Snipe	Klaas's Cuckoo
African Spoonbill	Lanner Falcon
Agulhas Clapper Lark	Large-billed Lark
Agulhas Long-billed Lark	Lesser Flamingo
Banded Martin	Lesser Swamp-Warbler
Barn Swallow	Levaillant's Cisticola
Bar-tailed Godwit	Little Egret
Bar-throated Apalis	Little Grebe
Black Harrier	Little Rush-Warbler
Black-headed Heron	Little Stint
Black-shouldered Kite	Long-billed Pipit
Blacksmith Lapwing	Malachite Kingfisher
Black-winged Stilt	Malachite Sunbird
Blue Crane	Namaqua Dove
Bokmakierie	Pearl-breasted Swallow
Booted Eagle	Pied Avocet
Brimstone Canary	Pied Kingfisher
Brown-throated Martin	Pied Starling
Cape Bulbul	Purple Heron
Cape Canary	Red Knot
Cape Cormorant	Red-billed Teal

Cape Crow	Red-capped Lark
Cape Grassbird	Red-eyed Dove
Cape Longclaw	Red-knobbed Coot
Cape Robin-Chat	Reed Cormorant
Cape Shoveler	Rock Kestrel
Cape Sparrow	Ruff
Cape Spurfowl	Secretarybird
Cape Sugarbird	Sombre Greenbul
Cape Teal	South African Shelduck
Cape Turtle-Dove	Southern Black Korhaan
Cape Wagtail	Southern Boubou
Cape Weaver	Southern Double-collared Sunbird
Cape White-eye	Southern Red Bishop
Capped Wheatear	Southern Tchagra
Cardinal Woodpecker	Speckled Mousebird
Caspian Tern	Speckled Pigeon
Cattle Egret	Spotted Eagle-Owl
Chestnut-banded Plover	Spotted Thick-knee
Cloud Cisticola	Spur-winged Goose
Common Starling	Steppe Buzzard
Common Fiscal	Three-banded Plover
Common Greenshank	Water Thick-knee
Common House-Martin	Wattled Starling
Common Ostrich	Whiskered Tern
Common Ringed Plover	White-breasted Cormorant
Common Sandpiper	White-faced Duck
Common Waxbill	White-rumped Swift
Common Whimbrel	White-throated Canary
Crowned Lapwing	White-throated Swallow
Curlew Sandpiper	Wood Sandpiper
Denham's Bustard	Yellow Bishop
Egyptian Goose	Yellow Canary
Fiscal Flycatcher	Yellow-billed Duck
Fork-tailed Drongo	Yellow-billed Egret
Glossy Ibis	Yellow-billed Kite
Great Crested Grebe	Zitting Cisticola
Great White Pelican	
Greater Double-collared Sunbird	
Greater Flamingo	
Greater Striped Swallow	
Grey Heron	
Grey-backed Cisticola	
Grey-winged Francolin	

KLIPFONTEIN PENTAD(3440_2000)

This pentad is mostly agricultural land but includes a beautiful part of the Heuningnes river on the farms Visserdrift(Johannes Uys) and Zeekoeivlei(Pieter Albertyn). There are also large fynbos areas to the south on Zoetendalsvlei(Michael van Breda) and Klipfontein(Johannes Uys). Access to Grasrug side of the Heuningnes has not been obtained. The Eastern side of the R319 has some pans which could be lucrative during a wet season.

SABAP2 has listed 147 species for this pentad. The Project has 90 species listed. All of these should be accepted with the exception of Neddicky(Until photographic proof). Better access to the Heuningnes river could improve these numbers significantly.

New species identified for this pentad in 2014 was: African Spoonbill, Forest Buzzard, Red-billed Teal and White-necked Raven.

6 Field sheets have been submitted to SABAP2 for the project .

BIRDING HOTSPOTS FOR THIS PENTAD IS:

R319 road transverses cultivated land which can be very productive.

Heuningnesrivier Vissersdrift(Private land)

Heuningnesrivier Zeekoeivlei(Private land)

Langerug Self-catering Cottage(Private)

The Final birdlist for this pentad (3440_2000):

Klipfontein 3440_2000

African Fish-Eagle	Hadeda Ibis
African Marsh-Harrier	Helmeted Guineafowl
African Pipit	House Sparrow
African Sacred Ibis	Jackal Buzzard
African Spoonbill	Karoo Prinia
African Stonechat	Kelp Gull
Agulhas Clapper Lark	Kittlitz's Plover
Agulhas Long-billed Lark	Klaas's Cuckoo
Banded Martin	Large-billed Lark
Barn Swallow	Levaillant's Cisticola
Bar-throated Apalis	Little Egret
Black-headed Heron	Little Grebe
Black-shouldered Kite	Little Stint
Blacksmith Lapwing	Long-billed Pipit
Blue Crane	Malachite Sunbird
Bokmakierie	Marsh Sandpiper
Brimstone Canary	Namaqua Dove
Cape Bulbul	Pearl-breasted Swallow
Cape Canary	Pied Crow
Cape Crow	Pied Kingfisher
Cape Longclaw	Pied Starling
Cape Sparrow	Pin-tailed Whydah
Cape Spurfowl	Purple Heron
Cape Sugarbird	Red-billed Teal
Cape Turtle-Dove	Red-capped Lark
Cape Wagtail	Red-eyed Dove
Cape Weaver	Red-knobbed Coot
Capped Wheatear	Reed Cormorant
Cattle Egret	Southern Masked-Weaver

Common Starling	Southern Red Bishop
Common Fiscal	Speckled Mousebird
Common Greenshank	Speckled Pigeon
Common Ostrich	Spotted Thick-knee
Common Ringed Plover	Spur-winged Goose
Crowned Lapwing	Steppe Buzzard
Denham's Bustard	Three-banded Plover
Diderick Cuckoo	Whiskered Tern
Egyptian Goose	White-faced Duck
European Honey Buzzard	White-necked Raven
Fiscal Flycatcher	White-rumped Swift
Fork-tailed Drongo	White-throated Swallow
Greater Flamingo	Yellow Bishop
Greater Striped Swallow	Yellow Canary
Grey Heron	Yellow-billed Duck
Grey-winged Francolin	Yellow-billed Kite

DE MOND PENTAD(3440_2005)

This Pentad consists of the De Mond Nature Reserve managed by Cape Nature and the farms, De Mond(Alistair Kilpin) and Vogelgezung(Paul Maxley) which both have extensive wetlands as well as agricultural land. A heronry on De Mond farm is special to see. Vogelgezung has a large coastal fynbos area and coastal area which is challenging to reach. De Mond this year once again has been an absolute birders haven and at one stage I estimated that there was about 5000-7000 terns alone visible. Simply an awesome experience. The boardwalks on the southern side of the river has now been complemented with short boardwalk on the northern side.

SABAP2 has listed 205 species for this pentad which is the highest of all the pentads, the project list now stands at 128. All of the SABAP2 list should be valid with the exception of African Goshawk, African Quailfinch, Alpine Swift, Arctic Tern, Banded Martin, Bank Cormorant, Cape Clapper Lark(See Agulhas C L), Karoo Korhaan, Osprey, Parasitic Jaeger, Peregrine Falcon, Squacco Heron, Terrestrial Brownbul, White-chinned Petrel and White-winged Tern which needs to be verified by picture or call.

6 Field sheets have been submitted to SABAP2 for the project.

De Mond forms an important part of avitourism in the Agulhas Plain and much more need to be done about monitoring birdlife in the reserve. Birdlife Overberg Birding has signed a contract with Cape Nature to count birds regularly at De Mond Nature Reserve. This could only help to improve data.

BIRDING HOTSPOTS FOR THIS PENTAD IS:

De Mond Nature Reserve

De Mond Farms (Private land)

Vogelgezung Farm (Private land)

Gravel road toward De Mond for species found on cultivated land.

The Final birdlist for this pentad (3440_2005):

De Mond 3440_2005

Acacia Pied Barbet	Hadedda Ibis
African Black Oystercatcher	Helmeted Guineafowl
African Dusky Flycatcher	House Sparrow
African Marsh-Harrier	Jackal Buzzard
African Pipit	Karoo Prinia
African Sacred Ibis	Karoo Scrub-Robin
African Spoonbill	Kelp Gull
African Stonechat	Kittlitz's Plover
Agulhas Long-billed Lark	Large-billed Lark
American Golden Plover	Lesser Flamingo
Barn Owl	Lesser Swamp-Warbler
Barn Swallow	Levaillant's Cisticola
Bar-tailed Godwit	Little Egret
Bar-throated Apalis	Little Grebe
Black Harrier	Little Stint
Black-headed Heron	Malachite Sunbird
Black-shouldered Kite	Marsh Sandpiper
Blacksmith Lapwing	Namaqua Dove
Black-winged Stilt	Neddicky
Blue Crane	Pacific Golden Plover
Bokmakierie	Pearl-breasted Swallow
Booted Eagle	Pied Avocet
Brimstone Canary	Pied Kingfisher
Broad-billed Sandpiper	Pied Starling
Cape Bulbul	Red Knot
Cape Bunting	Red-billed Teal
Cape Cormorant	Red-capped Lark
Cape Crow	Red-eyed Dove
Cape Grassbird	Red-knobbed Coot
Cape Longclaw	Red-winged Starling
Cape Robin-Chat	Reed Cormorant
Cape Shoveler	Ruff
Cape Sparrow	Sanderling
Cape Spurfowl	Sandwich Tern
Cape Sugarbird	Secretarybird
Cape Teal	Sombre Greenbul
Cape Turtle-Dove	South African Shelduck
Cape Wagtail	Southern Black Korhaan
Cape Weaver	Southern Boubou
Capped Wheatear	Southern Double-collared Sunbird
Caspian Tern	Southern Red Bishop
Cattle Egret	Speckled Mousebird
Cloud Cisticola	Speckled Pigeon
Common Starling	Spur-winged Goose
Common Fiscal	Steppe Buzzard
Common Greenshank	Swift Tern
Common Moorhen	Terek Sandpiper
Common Ostrich	Three-banded Plover
Common Ringed Plover	Water Thick-knee
Common Sandpiper	Whiskered Tern
Common Swift	White-breasted Cormorant

Common Tern	White-fronted Plover
Common Waxbill	White-necked Raven
Common Whimbrel	White-rumped Swift
Crowned Lapwing	White-throated Canary
Curlew Sandpiper	White-throated Swallow
Damara Tern	Yellow Bishop
Denham's Bustard	Yellow Canary
Egyptian Goose	Yellow-billed Duck
Eurasian Curlew	Yellow-billed Kite
Fiscal Flycatcher	Zitting Cisticola
Glossy Ibis	
Great White Pelican	
Greater Flamingo	
Greater Sand Plover	
Greater Striped Swallow	
Grey Heron	
Grey Plover	
Grey-backed Cisticola	

QUOIN POINT PENTAD(3445_1935)

This pentad was added because it forms part of the greater Agulhas plain and is a Cape Nature nature reserve. It is also an important reserve because of Quoin Rock which is one of very few breeding colonies of the Bank Cormorant in SA. The pentad consists of coastal dunes, fynbos, a small fisherman's village(Buffelsjacht bay), and is a very dry, arid pentad. Road access to the area is very bad which probably has a protective effect on the Bank Cormorant colony. Because of distance and time-constraints, very little birding has been done in this pentad.

New species recorded for the pentad in 2014 includes: African Hoopoe, Barn Swallow, Cape Crow, Common Greenshank, Common Ringed Plover, Curlew Sandpiper, Grey Plover, Laughing Dove and Sanderling.

SABAP has 87 species listed for this pentad. The project has 57 listed. All of these species could be valid except for Alpine Swift which needs to be confirmed by picture.

3 Field sheets have been submitted to SABAP2 for the project. An initiative from Overberg Birdlife SA might improve the situation as quarterly counts are planned for this pentad.

BIRDING HOTSPOTS FOR THIS PENTAD IS:

Quoin Point Lighthouse track

Quoin Rock Bird Sanctuary – Can be seen from the coast. Bank Cormorant.

The Final birdlist for this pentad (3445_1935):

Quoin Point 3445_1935

African Black Oystercatcher	Fiscal Flycatcher
African Hoopoe	Giant Kingfisher
African Sacred Ibis	Grey Heron

Bank Cormorant	Grey Plover
Barn Swallow	Grey-backed Cisticola
Black Harrier	Hadedda Ibis
Black-headed Heron	Hartlaub's Gull
Bokmakierie	House Sparrow
Cape Bulbul	Karoo Prinia
Cape Bunting	Kelp Gull
Cape Cormorant	Laughing Dove
Cape Crow	Little Egret
Cape Grassbird	Malachite Sunbird
Cape Robin-Chat	Orange-breasted Sunbird
Cape Spurfowl	Pied Starling
Cape Turtle-Dove	Red-winged Starling
Cape Wagtail	Rock Kestrel
Cape Weaver	Ruddy Turnstone
Caspian Tern	Sanderling
Common Starling	Sombre Greenbul
Common Fiscal	Southern Double-collared Sunbird
Common Greenshank	Southern Tchagra
Common Ringed Plover	Speckled Mousebird
Common Whimbrel	Speckled Pigeon
Crowned Cormorant	Swift Tern
Crowned Lapwing	White-breasted Cormorant
Curlew Sandpiper	White-fronted Plover
Egyptian Goose	White-necked Raven
	Yellow Canary

DIE DAM (3445_1940)

This pentad includes “Die Dam” settlement, coastal birding, southern fynbos area of Ratelrivier and last 2 km of the Ratelrivier. It also includes one of three “Drie Vleitjies”. This area has improved tremendously due to the removal of alien vegetation and rehabilitation of the area is well on its way. Hats off to management as this will soon be a prime birding area. There is a man made canal draining the wetland above the Ratelrivier Homestead(for farming purposes) which now has been closed in order to restore the wetland(it seems). This could revive the pans north of the homestead and lead to interesting birding spots.

New species for this pentad in 2014 included: Acacia Pied Barbet, Cape Batis, Common Ostrich and Grey-winged Francolin .

SABAP2 has 91 species listed for this pentad. We have listed 81 for the project. All of the SABAP species could be valid.

4 Field sheets has been submitted to SABAP2 for the project.

BIRDING HOTSPOTS FOR THIS PENTAD IS:

Die Dam Settlement. (Coastal Species incl Bank Cormorant)

The Final birdlist for this pentad (3445_1940):

Die Dam 3445_1940

Acacia Pied Barbet	Hadeda Ibis
African Black Oystercatcher	Hartlaub's Gull
African Dusky Flycatcher	Helmeted Guineafowl
African Fish-Eagle	House Sparrow
African Paradise-Flycatcher	Jackal Buzzard
African Sacred Ibis	Karoo Prinia
Bank Cormorant	Kelp Gull
Barn Owl	Lanner Falcon
Barn Swallow	Levaillant's Cisticola
Bar-throated Apalis	Little Egret
Black Harrier	Little Rush-Warbler
Black-headed Heron	Malachite Sunbird
Black-shouldered Kite	Namaqua Dove
Bokmakierie	Olive Thrush
Brown-throated Martin	Orange-breasted Sunbird
Cape Batis	Plain-backed Pipit
Cape Bulbul	Red-eyed Dove
Cape Canary	Red-winged Starling
Cape Cormorant	Rock Kestrel
Cape Grassbird	Rock Martin
Cape Robin-Chat	Ruddy Turnstone
Cape Spurfowl	Sombre Greenbul
Cape Sugarbird	Southern Boubou
Cape Turtle-Dove	Southern Double-collared Sunbird
Cape Wagtail	Southern Tchagra
Cape Weaver	Speckled Mousebird
Cloud Cisticola	Speckled Pigeon
Common Starling	Spotted Thick-knee
Common Fiscal	Steppe Buzzard
Common Ostrich	Swift Tern
Common Ringed Plover	Water Thick-knee
Common Whimbrel	Whiskered Tern
Crowned Lapwing	White-breasted Cormorant
Diderick Cuckoo	White-fronted Plover
Egyptian Goose	White-necked Raven
Fiscal Flycatcher	White-rumped Swift
Fork-tailed Drongo	Yellow Bishop
Greater Striped Swallow	Yellow Canary
Grey Heron	Yellow-billed Duck
Grey-backed Cisticola	Zitting Cisticola
Grey-winged Francolin	

RIETFontein SE BAAI (3445_1945)

This very small pentad has fynbos overgrown by aliens as well as some fine coastal viewing. Aliens have been cleared in large areas and this has improved birding in the area. Two of the “Drie Vleitjies” is also in this pentad.

New species recorded in 2014 included: African Sacred Ibis, Cape Spurfowl, Cape Weaver, Common Ostrich, Rock Kestrel and Black-shouldered Kite. Birding has been disappointing as we could not enter much of the area due to heavy rains.

SABAP2 has 95 species listed for this pentad, and the project has reached 64 species. These figures from SABAP2 is a cause for concern because after extensively birding of this coastal pentad, we never get to more than 37 species, whereas some of the previous submissions has up to 60 species. This leads us to believe that these lists might belong to other pentads. I have taken this up with SABAP2 staff and they have raised their concerns, but no feedback has been following. They have expressed similar experiences to ours.

4 Field sheets have been submitted to SABAP2 for the project.

BIRDING HOTSPOTS FOR THIS PENTAD IS:

Track leading to the Drie Vleitjies – Hottentot Buttonquail ! (when dry enough)

Gravel Road to Coast – Larks, Pipits and Cisticolas

Rietfontein Coast – Coastal Species(4x4 required in places)

The Final birdlist for this pentad (3445_1945):

Rietfonteinsebaai 3445_1945

African Black Oystercatcher	Fiscal Flycatcher
African Sacred Ibis	Giant Kingfisher
Barn Swallow	Greater Flamingo
Black Harrier	Grey Heron
Black-headed Heron	Grey Plover
Black-necked Grebe	Grey-backed Cisticola
Black-shouldered Kite	Hottentot Buttonquail
Blacksmith Lapwing	Jackal Buzzard
Bokmakierie	Karoo Prinia
Cape Bulbul	Kelp Gull
Cape Bunting	Kittlitz's Plover
Cape Cormorant	Large-billed Lark
Cape Gannet	Levaillant's Cisticola
Cape Grassbird	Little Egret
Cape Robin-Chat	Little Grebe
Cape Shoveler	Little Stint
Cape Spurfowl	Malachite Sunbird
Cape Sugarbird	Plain-backed Pipit
Cape Teal	Red-knobbed Coot
Cape Turtle-Dove	Reed Cormorant
Cape Wagtail	Rock Kestrel
Cape Weaver	Southern Boubou
Caspian Tern	Southern Double-collared Sunbird

Cloud Cisticola	Steppe Buzzard
Common Fiscal	Swift Tern
Common Greenshank	Three-banded Plover
Common Ostrich	Whiskered Tern
Common Ringed Plover	White-breasted Cormorant
Common Whimbrel	White-fronted Plover
Curlew Sandpiper	White-rumped Swift
Damara Tern	Yellow Canary
Egyptian Goose	Yellow-billed Duck

BRANDFONTEIN PENTAD(3445_1950)

The Brandfontein pentad is a small pentad which includes the southern slopes of the Anysberg , Brandfontein and Aasfontein cottages. The road between Renosterkop and Brandfontein has some pristine fynbos for fynbos birding. There are a few small pans which fills up in good rainy seasons. The Aasfontein area has been inaccessible lately and was largely excluded this year.

6 new species was recorded for the pentad in 2014. The most interesting was the Agulhas Clapper Lark. Others were common species such as Common Ostrich, Southern Red Bishop, Plain-backed Pipit, Cloud Cisticola and Cape Cormorant.

According to SABAP statistics, 118 species have been recorded for this pentad, a statistic which is questioned and have been discussed with SABAP2 officials . The project list stands at 74. 5 Field sheets have been submitted to SABAP for the project.

BIRDING HOTSPOTS FOR THIS PENTAD IS:

Brandfontein beach for Seabirds

Brandfontein gravel Rd (Sunbirds and other fynbos species)

The Final birdlist for this pentad (3445_1950)is:

Brandfontein 3445_1950

African Black Oystercatcher	Denham's Bustard
African Hoopoe	Egyptian Goose
African Pipit	Fiscal Flycatcher
African Sacred Ibis	Fork-tailed Drongo
African Snipe	Greater Striped Swallow
African Stonechat	Grey Heron
Agulhas Clapper Lark	Grey-backed Cisticola
Agulhas Long-billed Lark	Hadedda Ibis
Barn Swallow	House Sparrow
Bar-throated Apalis	Jackal Buzzard
Black Harrier	Karoo Prinia
Blacksmith Lapwing	Kelp Gull
Bokmakierie	Kittlitz's Plover
Cape Batis	Large-billed Lark
Cape Bulbul	Malachite Sunbird
Cape Bunting	Orange-breasted Sunbird

Cape Cormorant	Pied Starling
Cape Crow	Plain-backed Pipit
Cape Grassbird	Red-billed Teal
Cape Longclaw	Red-eyed Dove
Cape Robin-Chat	Reed Cormorant
Cape Shoveler	Sombre Greenbul
Cape Sparrow	Southern Boubou
Cape Spurfowl	Southern Double-collared Sunbird
Cape Sugarbird	Southern Red Bishop
Cape Teal	Southern Tchagra
Cape Turtle-Dove	Speckled Mousebird
Cape Wagtail	Speckled Pigeon
Cape Weaver	Spotted Thick-knee
Cape White-eye	Spur-winged Goose
Chestnut-banded Plover	White-breasted Cormorant
Cloud Cisticola	White-fronted Plover
Common Starling	White-necked Raven
Common Fiscal	White-throated Swallow
Common Ostrich	Yellow Bishop
Common Waxbill	Yellow Canary
Crowned Lapwing	Yellow-billed Duck

SUIDERSTRAND PENTAD (3445_1955)

The Suiderstrand pentad includes urban area, coast line (including the fresh water inlet east of Suiderstrand), Sandberg, Renosterkop chalets(AGNP) and the dunes behind them. It includes the Renosterkop Pan as well as Agulhas Rest Camp(but so far I have not been able to obtain access). The Southern tip of the Zoetendalsvlei and the direct gravel road running towards Renosterkop is also included. The alien clearing in the area is a massive operation and seems to be well organized and systematic. Once again hats off to the teams responsible!

SABAP has listed 144 species for this pentad. The project has listed 106 species. All of the SABAP species should be valid, except for White-backed Mousebird which has to be confirmed by picture or call.

New species added in 2014 includes: Acacia Pied Barbet, African Snipe, Common Tern, Black-headed Heron, Curlew Sandpiper, Glossy Ibis, Klaas's Cuckoo, Levillant's Cisticola, Red Knot, Ruff and Three-banded Plover, most of which is due to the exceptional water levels of the Renosterkop Pan.

6 Field sheets have been submitted to SABAP for the project.

BIRDING HOTSPOTS FOR THIS PENTAD IS:

Renosterkop Chalets and adjacent

Renosterkop Pan(In a wet year excellent for waders and other waterbirds

Dunes behind Renosterkop farm(Larks, Pipits, Cisticola)

Southern Tip of Zoetendalsvlei on the farm Zoetendalsvlei(Private)

Suiderstrand Boardwalk towards Rasperpunt (Terns, waders)

Sandberg (Orange-breasted Sunbird, Hottentot Buttonquail)

The Final birdlist for this pentad (3445_1955)is:

Suiderstrand 3445_1955

Acacia Pied Barbet	Grey-backed Cisticola
African Black Oystercatcher	Hadeda Ibis
African Fish-Eagle	Hartlaub's Gull
African Hoopoe	Helmeted Guineafowl
African Marsh-Harrier	House Sparrow
African Paradise-Flycatcher	Jackal Buzzard
African Sacred Ibis	Karoo Prinia
African Snipe	Kelp Gull
Agulhas Clapper Lark	Kittlitz's Plover
Barn Swallow	Klaas's Cuckoo
Bar-throated Apalis	Large-billed Lark
Black Harrier	Laughing Dove
Black-headed Heron	Levaillant's Cisticola
Black-shouldered Kite	Little Grebe
Blacksmith Lapwing	Little Stint
Black-winged Stilt	Long-billed Crombec
Blue Crane	Macoa Duck
Bokmakierie	Malachite Sunbird
Cape Bulbul	Namaqua Dove
Cape Bunting	Orange-breasted Sunbird
Cape Cormorant	Pied Starling
Cape Crow	Red Knot
Cape Grassbird	Red-billed Teal
Cape Robin-Chat	Red-eyed Dove
Cape Shoveler	Red-knobbed Coot
Cape Sparrow	Rock Kestrel
Cape Spurfowl	Rock Martin
Cape Sugarbird	Ruddy Turnstone
Cape Turtle-Dove	Ruff
Cape Wagtail	Sanderling
Cape Weaver	Sandwich Tern
Cape White-eye	Sombre Greenbul
Caspian Tern	South African Shelduck
Cattle Egret	Southern Boubou
Chestnut-banded Plover	Southern Double-collared Sunbird
Common Starling	Southern Masked-Weaver
Common Fiscal	Southern Tchagra
Common Greenshank	Speckled Mousebird
Common Ostrich	Speckled Pigeon
Common Ringed Plover	Spotted Eagle-Owl
Common Tern	Spur-winged Goose
Common Waxbill	Steppe Buzzard
Common Whimbrel	Swift Tern
Crowned Lapwing	Three-banded Plover

Curlew Sandpiper	Whiskered Tern
Egyptian Goose	White-breasted Cormorant
Fiscal Flycatcher	White-fronted Plover
Fork-tailed Drongo	White-necked Raven
Glossy Ibis	White-rumped Swift
Great Crested Grebe	White-throated Canary
Greater Double-collared Sunbird	Yellow Bishop
Greater Flamingo	Yellow Canary
Greater Striped Swallow	Yellow-billed Duck
Grey Heron	Yellow-billed Kite
Grey Plover	

STRUISBAAI PENTAD (3445_2000)

Struisbaai pentad includes coast-line, urban areas, fynbos areas above Agulhas including lookout road and golf course development, sewage works near Struisbaai North, dunes north of Struisbaai and agricultural land (Zoetendalsvlei). The sewage works has been upgraded and unfortunately most of the dams were filled up which destroyed a wonderful opportunity for Avitourism. The Langerzandt wetlands which was supposed to be cleared of aliens by the developers as part of the development, has not yet been cleared. Despite this the wetland has become an absolute haven for birds and because of its close position is another attraction to tourists. On one outing 36 species was counted within 2hrs!

The Struisbaai pentad delivered some of the most interesting new species this year. Abdim's Stork turned up in mid-town. African Snipe, Black Crake, Cape Gannet, Fiery-necked Nightjar, Greater Painted Snipe, Little Tern, Long-billed Crombec, Purple Heron, Water Thicknee, Agulhas Long-billed Lark and Zitting Cisticola was identified for the first time in this pentad for the project.

SABAP has recorded 154 species for this pentad. So far 131 species have been recorded in this pentad for this project. All of the SABAP species should be valid except for Neddicky, Familiar Chat, Peregrine Falcon and Cape Clapper Lark, all of which needs to be confirmed with either picture or sound recording. 16 Field sheets have been submitted to SABAP for the project so far.

BIRDING HOTSPOTS FOR THIS PENTAD IS:

Agulhas Tern roost near Campsite.

Agulhas lookout drive

Agulhas lighthouse garden.

Agulhas links golf estate.

Struisbaai boardwalk and harbour.

Molshoop Sewerage works

Elim gravel road and the cultivated land north of this road(Zoetendalsvlei farm)

Southern most tip of Africa and adjacent coast.

The Final birdlist for this pentad (3445_2000)is:

Struisbaai Pentad (3445_2000)

Abdim's Stork	Laughing Dove
African Black Oystercatcher	Lesser Swamp-Warbler
African Hoopoe	Levaillant's Cisticola
African Marsh-Harrier	Little Bittern
African Pipit	Little Egret
African Sacred Ibis	Little Grebe
African Snipe	Little Rush-Warbler
Agulhas Clapper Lark	Little Stint
Agulhas Long-billed Lark	Little Swift
Barn Swallow	Little Tern
Bar-throated Apalis	Long-billed Crombec
Black Crake	Maccoa Duck
Black-crowned Night-Heron	Malachite Kingfisher
Black-headed Heron	Malachite Sunbird
Black-shouldered Kite	Namaqua Dove
Blacksmith Lapwing	Northern Greater Petrel
Black-winged Stilt	Orange-breasted Sunbird
Blue Crane	Pied Avocet
Bokmakierie	Pied Crow
Brimstone Canary	Pied Kingfisher
Brown-throated Martin	Pied Starling
Cape Bulbul	Pin-tailed Whydah
Cape Bunting	Plain-backed Pipit
Cape Cormorant	Purple Heron
Cape Crow	Red-billed Teal
Cape Gannet	Red-capped Lark
Cape Grassbird	Red-eyed Dove
Cape Robin-Chat	Red-faced Mousebird
Cape Shoveler	Red-knobbed Coot
Cape Sparrow	Red-winged Starling
Cape Spurfowl	Rock Kestrel
Cape Sugarbird	Rock Martin
Cape Teal	Ruddy Turnstone
Cape Turtle-Dove	Sanderling
Cape Wagtail	Sandwich Tern
Cape Weaver	Sombre Greenbul
Cape White-eye	South African Shelduck
Capped Wheatear	Southern Boubou
Caspian Tern	Southern Double-collared Sunbird
Common Starling	Southern Grey-headed Sparrow
Common Fiscal	Southern Masked-Weaver
Common Greenshank	Southern Red Bishop
Common Moorhen	Southern Tchagra
Common Ostrich	Speckled Mousebird
Common Ringed Plover	Speckled Pigeon
Common Tern	Spotted Eagle-Owl
Common Waxbill	Spotted Thick-knee

Crowned Lapwing	Spur-winged Goose
Damara Tern	Steppe Buzzard
Denham's Bustard	Streaky-headed Seed eater
Diderick Cuckoo	Swift Tern
Egyptian Goose	Three-banded Plover
Fiery-necked Nightjar	Water Thick-knee
Fiscal Flycatcher	White-breasted Cormorant
Fork-tailed Drongo	White-faced Duck
Greater Double-collared Sunbird	White-fronted Plover
Greater Painted Snipe	White-rumped Swift
Greater Striped Swallow	White-throated Canary
Grey Heron	White-throated Swallow
Grey-backed Cisticola	Yellow Bishop
Hadeda Ibis	Yellow Canary
Helmeted Guineafowl	Yellow-billed Duck
House Sparrow	Yellow-billed Kite
Karoo Prinia	Zitting Cisticola
Kelp Gull	
Kittlitz's Plover	
Klaas's Cuckoo	

AGNP OVERALL STATISTICS

As mentioned the project covered all 22 pentads at least once this year. 33 field sheets were submitted this year (the highest number per year since the start of the project) and over a 5 year period we have now submitted 115 field sheets to SABAP2.

The overall tally for birds observed in the AGNP for this project stands at 227 species which is 28 new species for 2014 and the period until publication.

The most species recorded on one card was 104 species in the De Mond pentad during December. This was over a 3 day period and 7 hrs of observation.

The species per pentad for the project makes for interesting reading. The question is whether this differences are due to chance, volume, erroneous cards submitted or lack of experience by the author. It probably is a combination of all four! :

	Pentad No	Project	SABAP
Kosierskraal	3430_1950	79	86
Grashoek	3430_1955	80	83
Nuwedam	3435_1935	92	103
Viljoenshof	3435_1940	66	94
Elim	3435_1945	105	150
Bo-Voelplei	3435_1950	105	139
Heuningrug	3435_1955	107	123

Groote Eiland	3435_2000	109	135
Princekraal	3435_2005	97	137
Waterford	3440_1935	77	101
Wolvengat	3440_1940	86	110
Rietfontein	3440_1945	118	133
Voelvlei	3440_1950	106	123
Zoetendalsvlei	3440_1955	138	167
Klipfontein	3440_2000	90	147
De Mond	3440_2005	128	205
Quoin Point	3445_1935	57	87
Die Dam	3445_1940	81	91
Rietfontein se Baai	3445_1945	64	95
Brandfontein	3445_1950	74	118
Suiderstrand	3445_1955	109	144
Struisbaai	3445_2000	131	155

The highest number of species per pentad understandably is De Mond with 205 species from 92 field sheets (2.2/species per field sheet). The De Mond Estuary is a RAMSAR site. The Zoetendalsvlei pentad has 167 species from 24 field sheets (6.9/species per field sheet). It is thus conceivable that the latter could reach 205 species after 92 field sheets and for that reason any day as important a birding site as De Mond! Elim has 150 species from only 15 field sheets submitted (10/species per field sheet)! Rietfontein has 133 species from only 9 field sheets submitted (14/species per field sheet). Voelvlei 123 species from 13 field sheets (9.5/species per field sheet). This might not be statistically correct, but clearly shows that these areas are as important as De Mond in protecting our birds and should be incorporated as part of the RAMSAR site!

In 2010, our first year 135 species were identified and by 2014 at the end of the project, the number is 227, 28 more than the previous year. This is the first year that the new species identified has decreased (6.8% increase) from a previous year which probably is an indication that the project has reached maturity and that we have a good idea what species occur in the Agulhas plains.

FINAL LIST FOR AGULHAS PLAINS

ENGLISH NAME	AFRIKAANS NAME	GENUS	SPECIES
Penguins			
African Penguin	Brilpikkewyn	Spheniscus	demersus
Macaroni Penguin	Langkuifpikkewyn	Eudyptes	chrysolophus
Northern Rockhopper Penguin	Noordelike Geelkuifpikkewyn	Eudyptes	moseleyi
Albatrosses			
Light-mantled Albatross	Swartkopalbatros (-malmok)	Phoebastria	palpebrata
Ostriches			
Common Ostrich	Volstruis	Struthio	camelus
Guineafowl			
Helmeted Guineafowl	Gewone Tarentaal	Numida	meleagris
Pheasants, Fowl and Allies			
Grey-winged Francolin	Bergpatrys	Scleroptila	africana
Cape Spur-fowl	Kaapse Fisant	Pternistis	capensis
Common Quail	Afrikaanse Kwartel	Coturnix	coturnix
Ducks, Geese and Swans			
White-faced Whistling Duck	Nonnetjie-eend	Dendrocygna	viduata
Spur-winged Goose	Wildemakou	Plectropterus	gambensis
Egyptian Goose	Kolgans	Alopochen	aegyptiaca
South African Shelduck	Kopereend	Tadorna	cana

Cape Teal	Teeleend	Anas	capensis
African Black Duck	Swarteend	Anas	sparsa
Yellow-billed Duck	Geelbekeend	Anas	undulata
Cape Shoveler	Kaapse Slopeend	Anas	smithii
Red-billed Teal	Rooibekeend	Anas	erythrorhyncha
Hottentot Teal	Gevlekte Eend	Anas	hottentota
Southern Pochard	Bruineend	Netta	erythrophthalma
Maccoa Duck	Bloubekeend	Oxyura	maccoa
Northern Giant Petrel	Grootnellie	Macronectes	halli
Grebes			
Little Grebe	Kleindobbertjie	Tachybaptus	ruficollis
Great Crested Grebe	Kuifkopdobbertjie	Podiceps	cristatus
Black-necked Grebe	Swartnekdobbertjie	Podiceps	nigricollis
Flamingos			
Greater Flamingo	Grootflamink	Phoenicopterus	roseus
Lesser Flamingo	Kleinflamink	Phoeniconaias	minor
Storks			
African Openbill	Oopbekooievaar	Anastomus	lamelligerus
Black Stork	Grootswartooievaar	Ciconia	nigra
Abdim's Stork	Kleinswartooievaar	Ciconia	abdimii
White Stork	Witooievaar	Ciconia	ciconia
Marabou Stork	Maraboe	Leptoptilos	crumeniferus
Ibises and Spoonbills			
African Sacred Ibis	Skoorsteenveër	Threskiornis	aethiopicus
Hadedda Ibis	Hadedda	Bostrychia	hagedash
Glossy Ibis	Glansibis	Plegadis	falcinellus
African Spoonbill	Lepelaar	Platalea	alba
Hérons and Bitterns			
Little Bittern	Kleinrietreier (Woudapie)	Ixobrychus	minutus
Black-crowned Night Heron	Gewone Nagreier	Nycticorax	nycticorax
Western Cattle Egret	Veereier (Bosluisvoël)	Bubulcus	ibis
Grey Heron	Bloureier	Ardea	cinerea
Black-headed Heron	Swartkopreier	Ardea	melanocephala
Purple Heron	Rooireier	Ardea	purpurea
Yellow-billed Egret	Geelbekwitreier	Egretta	intermedia
Little Egret	Kleinwitreier	Egretta	garzetta
Hamerkop			
Hamerkop	Hamerkop	Scopus	umbretta
Pelicans			
Great White Pelican	Witpelikaan	Pelecanus	onocrotalus
Gannets and Boobies			
Cape Gannet	Witmalgas	Morus	capensis
Cormorants and Shags			
Reed Cormorant	Rietduiker	Phalacrocorax	africanus
Crowned Cormorant	Kuifkopduiker	Phalacrocorax	coronatus
Bank Cormorant	Bankduiker	Phalacrocorax	neglectus
White-breasted Cormorant	Witborsduiker	Phalacrocorax	lucidus
Cape Cormorant	Trekduiker	Phalacrocorax	capensis
Anhingas and Darters			
African Darter	Slanghalsvoël	Anhinga	rufa
Secretarybird			
Secretarybird	Sekretarisvoël	Sagittarius	serpentarius
Kites, Hawks and Eagles			
European Honey Buzzard	Wespedief	Pernis	apivorus
Black-shouldered Kite	Blouvalk	Elanus	caeruleus
Yellow-billed Kite	Geelbekwou	Milvus	aegyptius
African Fish Eagle	Visarend	Haliaeetus	vocifer

Cape Vulture	Kransaasvoël	Gyps	coprotheres
African Marsh Harrier	Afrikaanse Vleivalk(Paddavreter)	Circus	ranivorus
Black Harrier	Witkruisvleivalk (-paddavreter)	Circus	maurus
African Harrier-Hawk	Kaalwangvalk	Polyboroides	typus
Rufous-breasted Sparrowhawk	Rooiborsesperwer	Accipiter	rufiventris
Black Sparrowhawk	Swartsperwer	Accipiter	melanoleucus
Common Buzzard	Bruinjakalsvoël	Buteo	buteo
Forest Buzzard	Bosjakalsvoël	Buteo	trizonatus
Jackal Buzzard	Rooiborsjakalsvoël	Buteo	rufufuscus
Booted Eagle	Dwergarend	Aquila	pennatus
Martial Eagle	Breëkoparend	Polemaetus	bellicosus
Caracaras and Falcons			
Rock Kestrel	Kransvalk	Falco	rupicolus
Lanner Falcon	Edelvalk	Falco	biarmicus
Bustards and Korhaan			
Denham's Bustard	Veldpou	Neotis	denhami
Southern Black Korhaan	Swartvlerkkorhaan	Afrotis	afra
Flufftails			
Red-chested Flufftail	Rooiborsvleikuiken	Sarothrura	rufa
Rails, Crakes and Coots			
African Rail	Grootriethaan	Rallus	caerulescens
Black Crake	Swatriethaan	Amaurornis	flavirostra
African Swamphen	Grootkoningriethaan	Porphyrio	madagascariensis
Common Moorhen	Grootwaterhoender	Gallinula	chloropus
Red-knobbed Coot	Bleshoender	Fulica	cristata
Cranes			
Blue Crane	Bloukraanvoël	Anthropoides	paradiseus
Buttonquail			
Hottentot Buttonquail	Kaapse Kwarteltjie	Turnix	hottentottus
Thick-knees			
Water Thick-knee	Waterdikkop	Burhinus	vermiculatus
Spotted Thick-knee	Gewone Dikkop	Burhinus	capensis
Oystercatchers			
African Black Oystercatcher	Swarttobie	Haematopus	moquini
Stilts and Avocets			
Black-winged Stilt	Rooipootelsie	Himantopus	himantopus
Pied Avocet	Bontelsie	Recurvirostra	avosetta
Plovers			
Blacksmith Lapwing	Bontkiewiet	Vanellus	armatus
Crowned Lapwing	Kroonkiewiet	Vanellus	coronatus
Pacific Golden Plover	Asiatiese Goue Strandkiewiet	Pluvialis	fulva
American Golden Plover	Amerikaanse Goue Strandkiewiet	Pluvialis	dominica
Grey Plover	Grysstrandkiewiet	Pluvialis	squatarola
Common Ringed Plover	Ringnekstrandkiewiet	Charadrius	hiaticula
Kittlitz's Plover	Geelborsstrandkiewiet	Charadrius	pecuarius
Three-banded Plover	Driebandstrandkiewiet	Charadrius	tricoloris
White-fronted Plover	Vaalstrandkiewiet	Charadrius	marginatus
Chestnut-banded Plover	Rooibandstrandkiewiet	Charadrius	pallidus
Greater Sand Plover	Grootstrandkiewiet	Charadrius	leschenaultii
Painted Snipes			
Greater Painted Snipe	Goudsnip	Rostratula	benghalensis
Sandpipers and Snipes			
African Snipe	Afrikaanse Snip	Gallinago	nigripennis
Bar-tailed Godwit	Bandstertgriet	Limosa	lapponica
Whimbrel	Kleinwulp	Numenius	phaeopus

Eurasian Curlew	Grootwulp	Numenius	arquata
Marsh Sandpiper	Moerasruiter	Tringa	stagnatilis
Common Greenshank	Groenpootruiter	Tringa	nebularia
Wood Sandpiper	Bosruiter	Tringa	glareola
Terek Sandpiper	Terekruiter	Xenus	cinereus
Common Sandpiper	Gewone Ruiter	Actitis	hypoleucos
Ruddy Turnstone	Steenloper	Arenaria	interpres
Red Knot	Knoet	Calidris	canutus
Sanderling	Drietonstrandloper	Calidris	alba
Little Stint	Kleinstrandloper	Calidris	minuta
Curlew Sandpiper	Krombekstrandloper	Calidris	ferruginea
Broad-billed Sandpiper	Breëbekstrandloper	Limicola	falcinellus
Ruff	Kemphaan	Philomachus	pugnax
White-rumped Sandpiper	Witrugstrandloper	Calidris	fuscicollis
Gulls, Terns and Skimmers			
Grey-headed Gull	Gryskopmeeu	Chroicocephalus	cirrocephalus
Hartlaub's Gull	Hartlaubmeeu	Chroicocephalus	hartlaubii
Kelp Gull	Swartrugmeeu	Larus	dominicanus
Caspian Tern	Reusesterretjie	Hydroprogne	caspia
Swift Tern	Geelbeksterretjie	Thalasseus	bergii
Sandwich Tern	Grootsterretjie	Thalasseus	sandvicensis
Damara Tern	Damarasterretjie	Sternula	balaenarum
Gull-billed Tern	Oostelike Sterretjie	Gelochelidon	nilotica
Common Tern	Gewone Sterretjie	Sterna	hirundo
Whiskered Tern	Witbaardsterretjie	Chlidonias	hybrida
Pigeons and Doves			
Speckled Pigeon	Kransduif	Columba	guinea
Red-eyed Dove	Grootringduif	Streptopelia	semitorquata
Cape Turtle Dove	Gewone Tortelduif	Streptopelia	capicola
Laughing Dove	Rooiborsduifie	Stigmatopelia	senegalensis
Namaqua Dove	Namakwaduijie	Oena	capensis
Cuckoos			
Burchell's Coucal	Gewone Vleioerie	Centropus	burchelli
Dideric Cuckoo	Diederikkie	Chrysococcyx	caprius
Klaas's Cuckoo	Meitjie	Chrysococcyx	klaas
Red-chested Cuckoo	Piet-my-vrou	Cuculus	solitarius
Barn Owls			
Western Barn Owl	Nonnetjie-uil	Tyto	alba
Owls			
Spotted Eagle-Owl	Gevlekte Ooruil	Bubo	africanus
Nightjars			
Fiery-necked Nightjar	Afrikaanse Naguil	Caprimulgus	pectoralis
Swifts			
Common Swift	Europese Windswael	Apus	apus
Little Swift	Kleinwindswael	Apus	affinis
Horus Swift	Horuswindswael	Apus	horus
White-rumped Swift	Witkruiswindswael	Apus	caffer
Mousebirds			
Speckled Mousebird	Gevlekte Muisvoël	Colius	striatus
Red-faced Mousebird	Rooiwangmuisvoël	Urocolius	indicus
Kingfishers			
Brown-hooded Kingfisher	Bruinkopvisvanger	Halcyon	albiventris
Malachite Kingfisher	Kuifkopvisvanger	Alcedo	cristata

Giant Kingfisher	Reusevisvanger	Megaceryle	maxima
Pied Kingfisher	Bontvisvanger	Ceryle	rudis
Bee-eaters			
Blue-cheeked Bee-eater	Blouwangbyvreter	Merops	persicus
Hoopoes			
African Hoopoe	Hoephoep	Upupa	africana
African Barbets			
Acacia Pied Barbet	Bonthoutkapper	Tricholaema	leucomelas
Honeyguides			
Lesser Honeyguide	Kleinheuningwyser	Indicator	minor
Greater Honeyguide	Grootheuningwyser	Indicator	indicator
Woodpeckers			
Cardinal Woodpecker	Kardinaalspeg	Dendropicos	fuscescens
Wattle-eyes and Batises			
Cape Batis	Kaapse Bosbontrokkie	Batis	capensis
Bushshrikes			
Bokmakerie	Bokmakerie	Telophorus	zeylonus
Southern Tchagra	Grysborstjagra	Tchagra	tchagra
Southern Boubou	Suidelike Waterfiskaal	Laniarius	ferrugineus
Shrikes			
Common Fiscal	Fiskaallaksman	Lanius	collaris
Drongos			
Fork-tailed Drongo	Mikstertbyvanger	Dicrurus	adsimilis
Monarchs			
African Paradise Flycatcher	Paradysvlieëvanger	Terpsiphone	viridis
Crows and Jays			
Cape Crow	Swartkraai	Corvus	capensis
Pied Crow	Witborskraai	Corvus	albus
White-necked Raven	Withalskraai	Corvus	albicollis
Larks			
Agulhas Clapper Lark		Mirafra	marjoriae
Agulhas Long-billed Lark	Overberglangbeklewerik	Certhilauda	brevirostris
Red-capped Lark	Rooikoplewerik	Calandrella	cinerea
Large-billed Lark	Dikbeklewerik	Galerida	magnirostris
Bulbuls			
Cape Bulbul	Kaapse Tiptol	Pycnonotus	capensis
Sombre Greenbul	Gewone Willie	Andropadus	importunus
Swallows and Martins			
Black Saw-wing	Swartsaagvlerkswael	Psalidoprocne	pristoptera
Brown-throated Martin	Afrikaanse Oewerswael	Riparia	paludicola
Banded Martin	Gebande Oewerswael	Riparia	cincta
Barn Swallow	Europese Swael	Hirundo	rustica
White-throated Swallow	Witkeelswael	Hirundo	albigularis
Pearl-breasted Swallow	Pêrelborsswael	Hirundo	dimidiata
Rock Martin	Kransswael	Ptyonoprogne	fuligula
Common House Martin	Huisswael	Delichon	urbicum
Greater Striped Swallow	Grootstreepswael	Cecropis	cucullata
Reed Warblers and Allies			
Lesser Swamp Warbler	Kaapse Rietsanger	Acrocephalus	gracilirostris
African Reed Warbler	Kleinrietsanger	Acrocephalus	baeticatus
Grassbirds and Allies			
Little Rush Warbler	Kaapse Vleisanger	Bradypterus	baboecala
Cisticolas and Allies			
Grey-backed Cisticola	Grysrugtinktinkie	Cisticola	subruficapilla
Levaillant's Cisticola	Vleitinktinkie	Cisticola	tinniens
Neddicky	Neddikkie	Cisticola	fulvicapilla
Zitting Cisticola	Landeryklopkloppie	Cisticola	juncidis

Cloud Cisticola	Gevlekte Klopkloppie	Cisticola	textrix
Karoo Prinia	Karoolangstertjie	Prinia	maculosa
Bar-throated Apalis	Bandkeelkleinjantjie	Apalis	thoracica
Family uncertain			
Cape Grassbird	Grasvoël	Sphenoeacus	afer
Long-billed Crombec	Bosveldstompstert	Sylvietta	rufescens
White-eyes			
Cape White-eye	Kaapse Glasogie	Zosterops	capensis
Sugarbirds			
Cape Sugarbird	Kaapse Suikervoël	Promerops	cafer
Starlings			
Common Starling	Europese Spreeu	Sturnus	vulgaris
Wattled Starling	Lelspreeu	Creatophora	cinerea
Pied Starling	Witgatspreeu	Lamprotornis	bicolor
Red-winged Starling	Rooivlerkspreeu	Onychognathus	morio
Thrushes			
Olive Thrush	Olyflyster	Turdus	olivaceus
Chats and Old World Flycatchers			
Cape Robin-Chat	Gewone Janfrederik	Cossypha	caffra
Karoo Scrub Robin	Slangverklikker	Erythropygia	coryphaeus
African Stonechat	Gewone Bontrokkie	Saxicola	torquatus
Capped Wheatear	Hoëveldskaapwagter	Oenanthe	pileata
Familiar Chat	Gewone Spekvreter	Cercomela	familiaris
Fiscal Flycatcher	Fiskaalvlieëvanger	Sigelus	silens
African Dusky Flycatcher	Donkervlieëvanger	Muscicapa	adusta
Sunbirds			
Orange-breasted Sunbird	Oranjeborssuikerbekkie	Anthobaphes	violacea
Malachite Sunbird	Jangroentjie	Nectarinia	famosa
Southern Double-collared Sunbird	Klein-rooibandsuikerbekkie	Cinnyris	chalybeus
Greater Double-collared Sunbird	Groot-rooibandsuikerbekkie	Cinnyris	afer
Old World Sparrows			
House Sparrow	Huismossie	Passer	domesticus
Cape Sparrow	Gewone Mossie	Passer	melanurus
Southern Grey-headed Sparrow	Gryskopmossie	Passer	diffusus
Weavers and Widowbirds			
Cape Weaver	Kaapse Wewer	Ploceus	capensis
Southern Masked Weaver	Swartkeelgeelvink	Ploceus	velatus
Southern Red Bishop	Rooivink	Euplectes	orix
Yellow Bishop	Kaapse Flap	Euplectes	capensis
Waxbills, Munias and Allies			
Common Waxbill	Rooibeksysie	Estrilda	astrild
Indigobirds and Whydahs			
Pin-tailed Whydah	Koningrooibekkie	Vidua	macroura
Wagtails and Pipits			
Cape Wagtail	Gewone Kwikkie	Motacilla	capensis
Cape Longclaw	Oranjekeelkalkoentjie	Macronyx	capensis
African Pipit	Gewone Koester	Anthus	cinnamomeus
Long-billed Pipit	Nicholsonkoester	Anthus	similis
Plain-backed Pipit	Donkerkoester	Anthus	leucophrys
Finches and Canaries			
Cape Canary	Kaapse Kanarie	Serinus	canicollis
Yellow Canary	Geelkanarie	Crithagra	flaviventris
Brimstone Canary	Dikbekkanarie	Crithagra	sulphurata
White-throated Canary	Witkeelkanarie	Crithagra	albugularis
Streaky-headed Seed eater	Streepkopkanarie	Crithagra	gularis
Buntings and New World Sparrows			

Cape Bunting	Rooivlerkstreepkoppie	Emberiza	capensis
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DISCUSSION – SPECIES

Now that the project has ended it makes sense to discuss some species of the Agulhas Plain.

PENGUINS

Penguins do not occur naturally and only vagrants are reported. No African Penguin reported in the 5 years of the project as the area is too far from its breeding ground.

PELARGIC SPECIES - ALBATROSSES, PETRELS and STORM PETRELS

This study excluded pelargic species and those reported, confirmed or unconfirmed, normally occurred after stormy weather. Pelargics thus are highly uncommon, but could form part of the larger birding tourism plan.

OSTRICH

The Common Ostrich population of the Agulhas Plain is well controlled in the Nuwejaars River SMA, but in the AGNP their numbers have increased exponentially during the past 5 years.

GUINEAFOWL

The Helmeted Guineafowl population in the Agulhas Plains seems to be stable.

PHEASANTS, FOWL AND ALLIES

Grey-winged Francolin seems to be nomadic in the area. One year they will be visible in a few pentads and the next year nothing will be seen. Farmers in the area report a decrease in numbers. This could be due to farming activities and loss of Renosterveld habitat.

Cape Spurfowl numbers seem to be stable.

Common Quail is hardly ever seen, but frequently reported by farmers during harvesting. They are mostly identified by their typical call by birders. Common Quail is found in cultivated land with sufficient cover in the northern pentads.

DUCKS and GEESE

The Agulhas Plain is a haven for ducks due to the extensive wetlands. Yellow-billed duck, Red-billed Teal, Cape Teal, South African Shelduck and Cape Shoveler are common species.

Hottentot Teal seems to be resident around the Zoetendalsvlei and rarely are seen at Voelvlei.

White-faced Duck, Maccoa Duck and Southern Pochard numbers have increased in the last 3 years, but this could be due to the wet years we had. The Maccoa and Southern Pochard favours deeper waters and are seen when the dams and vlei's are full to the brim.

African Black Duck which favours small streams and rivers, are common although rather skittish. The little streams in the northern mountainous areas of the plains are the most likely place to spot one.

Spur-winged and Egyptian Geese seems to increase in numbers every year. This seems to be caused by a combination of good food (cultivated lands) and good protection (wetlands where they overnight).

GREBES

Little Grebe is common on almost every water body.

Black-necked Grebe and Greater Crested Grebe are visitors during wet seasons and have been rather common when they occur.

FLAMINGOES

The Agulhas Plains is an important food source for the flamingo population due to the many saltpans in the area. Greater Flamingo occurs in numbers of 4000 plus during summer although this would be the exception. Lesser Flamingo numbers have increased in the past 2 years. For the first 3 years we saw 2-10 birds /year and in 2014 200 plus on one occasion (Saltpans). Hopefully this trend will continue.

STORKS

White Stork is the only regular occurring stork in the Plains and are seen on the cultivated lands in summer. Especially seen just South of the Bredasdorp mountains. All the other storks recorded are vagrants although the visit from the Marabou Stork is almost a yearly occurrence.

IBISSES and SPOONBILLS

African Sacred Ibis and Hadeda Ibis occur in their hundreds in the Plain once again feeding on the cultivated lands and enjoying the safety of the wetlands.

Glossy Ibis and African Spoonbill are common visitors to the area.

HERONS, EGRETS and BITTERNs

Grey Heron, Black-headed Heron, Cattle Egret, Little Egret and Purple Heron are common in the area.

Black-crowned Night-heron is often seen although not as common as the above. Zeekoeivlei, De Mond and Mierkraal Heronries the best spot to find them. Yellow-billed Egret is a rare visitor and should probably be described as a vagrant. Little Bittern, although very rare, could be more common than expected due to the Agulhas wetland habitat.

HAMERKOP

Hamerkop is common but can disappear for extended periods.

PELICANS

Great White Pelican is common on the Zoetendalsvlei, Varkvlei, Springfield Saltpans and Voelvlei.

GANNETS and BOOBIES

Cape Gannet is common, seen feeding about 200m off the coast from Struisbaai to “Die Dam”.

CORMORANT AND DARTERS

Cape and White-breasted Cormorant are common from Struisbaai to Suiderstrand.

Bank Cormorant is common at and around Quoin Rock, rarely seen elsewhere.

Crowned Cormorant is rare but more likely to be seen towards Quoin Rock.

Reed Cormorant is common on fresh water bodies.

African Darter is common along the Nuwejaarsrivier and other vlei's.

SECRETARYBIRD

The Secretarybird is now common and the population seems to stabilize. It seems to do well in renosterveld where other species are seldom seen. The removal of the alien growth in the AGNP has certainly increased their ideal habitat.

RAPTORS – KITES, HAWKS, BUZZARDS

Black-shouldered Kite flourishes in the AGNP and a roost of 11 birds were discovered this year, a very special sight.

Yellow-billed Kite is very common in the Agulhas Plain and appear like clockwork every year in September. They are most common on the road between Struisbaai and Bredasdorp.

African Harrier-Hawk is uncommon but seen almost every year. They are more common in the Northern pentads which has alien forests.

Black and Rufous-chested Sparrowhawk are uncommon but occur in the Northern pentads where alien forests are in abundance.

Steppe Buzzard is a common Palaearctic visitor each year, appearing in November and leaving by the end of March/beginning of April.

Forest Buzzard and the issue of Hybrid Buzzards are something that need further research. We see what we consider to be Forest Buzzard on fringes of alien forest. It has a very white chest appearance and a almost greyish crown(seen from close by). It tends to fly into the forest when disturbed or once it has caught pray. These “Forest Buzzards” appears in November and are seen in December but no later. Do they migrate or are we simply confusing juvenile Steppe's for Forest Buzzard? To the experienced eye they seem to have a definite different behaviour and appearance.

Jackal Buzzard is common in the Agulhas Plain. Their juvenile and immature plumage has been a challenge for many a birder in the area.

European Honey-Buzzard is a very rare migrant in the area.

RAPTORS – EAGLES

African Fish-Eagle is very common at waterbodies in the area. The immature birds of this species could be a cause for incorrect identification of Osprey in the area.

Booted Eagle is uncommonly seen in the Northern pentads which is more mountainous, the pale morph being the more common. It is unclear whether we see the local breeding BE's only or some Palearctic visitors as well.

Martial Eagle is found in the Northern pentads and is uncommon. Most of the birds seen are immature.

RAPTORS – HARRIERS

African Marsh-Harriers flourish in the wetland habitat of the plain and are very common in the Nuwejaars river Wetland.

The Black Harrier population in the area seems to do well and are seen often. The control of alien vegetation in the AGNP probably improved their habitat as they seem to forage over the renosterveld.

VULTURES

The Cape Vulture has been photographed in the Plain for the first time a year ago. It is unlikely that their numbers will increase until the AGNP increase their livestock numbers.

KESTREL and FALCON

Rock Kestrel is common in the area.

Lanner Falcon is common but for some reason can disappear for months. An interesting feature about them is that they are seen from December to February. Does this mean that they are African Migrators?

BUSTARDS AND KORHAAN

Denham's Bustard, on the Red Data list, seems to have found a suitable habitat for future existence. In the Agulhas Plain they are common, favouring renosterveld and cultivated land. The population seems to be healthy and stable.

Southern Black Korhaan on the other hand is rarely seen. Farmers in the area remembers SBK to be very common. The reason for their diminishing numbers could be competition from species such as Egyptian Geese and Helmeted Guineafowl.

FLUFFTAIL

Red-chested Flufftail is rare and difficult to see. It is difficult to know whether they are simply difficult to see due to their behaviour or whether they in fact are few in number. Records of and reports of RCF seems to point to 3 places in the Agulhas Plain where they keep.

RAILS, CRAKES and COOTS

African Rail is skittish but seen at regular intervals around Zoetendalsvlei.

Black Crake, African Purple Swamphen, Common Moorhen and Red-knob Coot are common, the latter often in their hundreds on one of the larger vlei's.

CRANES

Blue Crane flourishes (and breeds) on the cultivated lands of the Nuwejaarsrivier SMA.

BUTTONQUAIL

The Hottentot Buttonquail is rarely seen, but certainly occurs on the coastal plains in a zone 1-5km from the coast. They normally are seen in renosterveld/fynbos 30-60cm in height, will not move until you almost step on them and then fly off to land about 30m away – never to be seen again. The best spots to find them are coastal flats West of Brandfontein and especially in the Rietfontein/Melkkbospan area.

THICKNEE

Both Spotted and Water Thicknee occur sporadically and are rather common.

OYSTERCATCHER

The African Black Oystercatcher numbers are healthy probably restored after beach driving was restricted a few years ago. Best spot to find them is the rocky coast west of Struisbaai.

STILTS and AVOCET

Black-winged Stilt is common.

Pied Avocet is common but sporadic and can occur in hundreds at Springfield Saltpans, Melkboschpan and Voelvlei.

PLOVERS

Blacksmith and Crowned Lapwing are common.

American and Pacific Golden Plovers are rare and only found at De Mond. Although rare, both of these were either recorded or reported for the past five years.

Grey Plover is common at De Mond and often seen on the rocky coast west of Struisbaai.

Common Ringed Plover is very common summer visitor and can occur in thousands at De Mond and Springfield Saltpan.

Kittlitz's Plover is common and found on the edge of water bodies almost always about 50-500m from the water's edge in open low vegetation.

Three-banded Plover is common and probably resident.

White-fronted Plover is common especially on the coast.

Chestnut-banded Plover is uncommon but occurs every year at Springfield Saltpan. Also seen at Renosterkop pan.

Greater Sand Plover is rarely seen at De Mond.

SNIPES and PAINTED-SNIPES

Greater Painted Snipe is very rare to see but possibly more common than expected. The habitat is ideal in many parts of the wetlands.

African Snipe occurs uncommon, but in a good year they can suddenly appear in large numbers. Best place to find them is Nuwejaars river, Zoetendalsvlei and Voelvlei.

SANDPIPERS

Ruff, Curlew Sandpiper, Little Stint are all very common at De Mond, Voelvlei, Springfield Saltpan and along Nuwejaars river. Curlew Sandpiper and Little Stint sometimes occur in numbers of 1000 plus.

Bar-tailed Godwit, Eurasian Curlew, Terek Sandpiper, Red Knot and Broad-billed Sandpiper are rare to very rare. De Mond is the best place to find them. Alternatively Springfield Saltpan or Renosterkop pan. Only one record of White-rumped Sandpiper exists (Voelvlei).

More common but still uncommon are Marsh Sandpiper, Wood Sandpiper and Common Sandpiper.

Common Whimbrel, Ruddy Turnstone and Sanderling are common along the "Die Dam" and Quoin Point coast. Sanderling has occurred in numbers > 400 on this coast. Ruddy Turnstone in groups 2-20.

Common Greenshank is common along coastal waterbodies throughout the area, but usually in small numbers.

GULLS, TERNS

Kelp Gull is very common, Grey-headed Gull and Hartlaub's rare on the Agulhas coast. Hartlaub's Gull becomes more common the further west towards Die Dam.

Sandwich, Swift and Common Tern are abundant at De Mond, Agulhas Tern Roost and Suiderstrand. An estimated 7000 terns was seen at De Mond at 2 separate visits. This is a spectacular site.

Caspian Tern has bred at Springfield Saltpan for many years but left the site after their breeding spot was exposed by alien control. For the past 2 years only individuals recorded along the Heuningnes river, De Mond and Nuwejaarsrivier.

Damara Tern is still commonly seen at De Mond and foraging along the coast. The Boardwalk in Struisbaai often produces results.

Only one record of Gull-billed Tern for the area.

Whiskered Tern returns every year to breed in the area. The gravel road from Zeekoeivlei towards De Mond leads past the pan on the left which feature Whiskered Tern every year. In a good wet year WT can be seen at almost every waterbody in the area. In its different plumages it seems to confuse birders mistaking them for either black Tern or White-winged Tern.

PIGEONS and DOVES

Speckled Pigeon, Laughing Dove, Red-eyed Dove and Cape Turtle Dove very Common.

Namaqua Dove was uncommon during the first 2 years of the project and thereafter rare. This could be chance or due to alien control. Interestingly always recorded in December to March.

CUCKOO'S and COUCAL

Klaas's en Dideric Cuckoo are uncommon to common but yearly seen or heard.

Red-chested Cuckoo is a summer migrant heard but seldom seen. Seem to favour forested areas. Uncommon to common but yearly seen or heard during summer months.

Burchell's Coucal is the only coucal seen. Uncommon but seen with regular intervals near water bodies. Best spot is the Grashoek gravel road.

OWLS

Barn Owl is common on farms where old derelict buildings provide safety for them. Zeekoeivlei, Moddervlei and Kosierskraal are good spots to find them.

Spotted Eagle-Owl is the most common owl in the Plain and can be seen anywhere.

Marsh Owl and African Grass-owl although reported at Waschkraalvlei and Nachtwacht has not been positively identified.

NIGHTJARS

Fiery-necked Nightjar is the only nightjar identified by call. Uncommon.

SWIFTS

White-rumped Swift is the most common Swift seen in the Plain. All other swifts are uncommon or rare. Alpine Swift which has been recorded on SABAP2 has not been positively identified in 5 years of the project.

MOUSEBIRDS

Speckled Mousebird is very common and can be found almost anywhere.

Red-faced Mousebird is uncommon but seen every now and then.

KINGFISHERS

Brown-hooded Kingfisher is uncommon and seen in alien forested areas more in Northern pentads.

Malachite and Pied Kingfisher are common in the right habitat.

Giant Kingfisher is uncommon but can be seen on the Heuningnes river. Giant and Pied Kingfisher are rarely seen fishing along the coast in seawater.

BEE-EATERS

Blue-cheeked Bee-eater was a vagrant. The European Bee-eater is reported but not confirmed for the area.

HOOPOES

African Hoopoe is common and could be found anywhere.

BARBETS

Acacia Pied Barbet is uncommon to common especially near alien forested areas.

HONEYGUIDES

The Lesser Honeyguide is seen in alien forested areas in Northern pentads. Kosierskraal and Mierkraal area the best spot to find it. Uncommon.

Greater Honeyguide is resident at Nuwedam Cottage and is heard year after year. Rare.

WOODPECKERS

The Cardinal Woodpecker is the only woodpecker seen, no particular area, but wooded vegetation.

Knysna Woodpecker reported at Kosierskraal, but not confirmed.

BATISES

Cape Batis is common in wooded(alien) vegetation. Seldom seen but readily responds to call or spishing.

BUSHSHRIKES and SHRIKES

The beautiful Bokmakierie is common in renosterveld in 1-3m high vegetation.

Southern Tchagra is seen in coastal Strandveld, rarely showing itself. Breeding season is the best time to identify this species when it becomes more vocal.

Southern Boubou keeps to riverside vegetation or gardens in built-up areas. Common.

Common Fiscal is common in almost all natural vegetation.

DRONGOS

The Fork-tailed Drongo is common favouring alien forested areas.

FLYCATCHERS

The African Paradise-Flycatcher is an intra-African migrator which visits every year and can be uncommon to common during summer. Find them in the Northern pentads in alien forested areas.

Fiscal Flycatcher is common in any tree with enough cover. Looks like Common Fiscal but with flycatcher bill. Sits in a tree rather than on top of the tree. Responds to spishing.

African Dusky Flycatcher is invisible in forested areas but responds well to spishing. Uncommon to common in the right spot.

CROWS

Cape Crow during the first years were seen 2-4 at a time. Lately their numbers have increased and it is common to see up to 12 at a time.

White-necked Raven and Pied Crow are uncommon to common.

LARKS

The Agulhas Plain is a good area to find larks. The Agulhas Long-billed lark is easiest to find on the “Die Dam” gravel road towards Rietfontein. It prefers open vegetation of about 20cm height.

The Agulhas Clapper Lark is easiest to find in fynbos veld of about 1-3m height and is easiest seen during breeding display when it can be heard and seen. Mierkraal farm is a good spot to find them as well as Vlooiakraal farm. Many birders report the Clapper Lark of the area as Cape Clapper. There is still much uncertainty about whether Agulhas Clapper is a separate specie. The Agulhas Clapper Lark has a descending call after clapping display, not ascending. Agulhas Clapper is a more greyish coloured “bulky” lark. Some of them can present more reddish than one would anticipate for the area.

Large-billed Lark is common on Zeekoeivlei farm as well as Rietfontein area. Identify by call, thick bill and typical crown.

Red-capped Lark is the most abundant lark with red cap and shoulder. Often seen on gravel roads in the area. Common.

BULBULS

Cape Bulbul is common and visible along coastal fynbos.

Sombre Greenbul is common in the right habitat which is indigenous trees and high shrubs of the area. They are difficult to locate as they remain behind cover while calling.

SWALLOWS and MARTIN

Barn Swallow migrate to the Plain every year and are seen in their thousands. Plumage can be confusing as they reach Southern Africa and can vary quite dramatically and cause confusion. They reach SA at the end of October and leave by end of March. Typically seen flying low over open fields.

Greater Striped Swallow is an intra-African migrant that reach the area by Sept and leave by April. Common in the area.

White-throated Swallow is also an intra-African migrant seen here from Sept till April always near water and sitting as a pair on a bridge or fence. Seen near Visserdrift bridge as well as Vogelgevang farm and bridge.

Pearl-breasted Swallow is a breeding intra-African migrant usually seen in pairs on a fence not necessarily close to water. Uncommon to common. They arrive in September and leave the area in April.

Common House-Martin is a rare Palaearctic migrant seen October to December in Eastern pentads of the Plain.

Brown-throated Martin is common in the right habitat. Can be seen near water bodies in the Plain especially those with reed beds.

Rock Martin is uncommon to common. Mostly seen near farm buildings in the area. Nuwedam farm is a good spot to find them.

Black Saw-wing is uncommon to rare in the Plain and seen in or near alien forested areas. Vlooiakraal could be a good spot.

Banded Martin is an uncommon intra-African migrant. Only 1 record in 5 years. De Mond or Renosterpan gives you the best chance.

WARBLERS

Lesser Swamp-Warbler is common in reed beds along rivers and vlei's. It is a resident species.

African Reed-Warbler is heard in summer along water bodies with reed beds. They migrate in about April. Numbers seem to differ year by year. For the last 2 years there was a definite decrease in numbers.

Little Rush-Warbler is common along marshy riverbeds and vlei's in summer months. Seem to be resident.

Cape Grassbird is resident and common around valleys with at least a little water. Keeps to vegetation of about 1-2 meter height. Sings perched on top of bush in early morning sunlight.

CISTICOLAS and ALLIES

Grey-backed Cisticola is a cisticola of renosterveld typically ,5-1m high shrubs, common next to many gravel roads in the area. Distinguished by call and grey on black back.

Cloud Cisticola is found in flat fynbos areas about 10-30cm high. They like open expanses in the Plain. Distinguished by call, habitat and display flight during courting. Rietfontein is a reliable spot to find this species.

Zitting Cisticola is found in restios ,5-1 meter in height, appearing and disappearing for short periods. Typical call and short tail. Found along most gravel roads in the Plains.

Levaillant's Cisticola is common around waterbodies with tall grass or reeds. Shows itself readily. Typical call. White breast, red-capped.

Neddicky is reported constantly but no positive ID has been possible in 5 years. Until such time as a picture or recording is produced, one has to expect that it does not occur or occurs rarely. It could be that experienced birders ID on call and confuse it with either Bar-throated Apalis or Karoo Prinia. (Identified since this report)

Bar-throated Apalis is common but rarely shows itself spontaneously. Spishing delivers good results. The call of the local BTA differs slightly from that of the northern species it seems(slower, lower pitch).

Karoo Prinia is common in renosterveld. Identify by habitat, call, spotted chest and typical tail.

Long-billed Crombec is uncommon in the Plain(seen twice in 5 years).

WHITE-EYES

Cape White-eye is common and simple to identify.

SUGARBIRDS

The Cape Sugarbird is common in the Plain and well adapted. Although it feeds on protea, it also feeds on alien bluegum in flower. Abundant in garden feeders in Struisbaai.

STARLINGS

Common and Pied Starling are common and occur in large flocks.

Wattled Starling is uncommon, often mixed in flocks with Pied Starling. Favours the Soutbos area.

Red-winged Starling occurs uncommonly in pairs.

THRUSH

Olive Thrush is uncommon but occasionally seen.

CHATS

Cape Robin-Chat is common all over.

Karoo Scrub-Robin is uncommon but shows in arid renosterveld. Colouring not as clear as Northern species.

African Stonechat is common in the renosterveld, typically seen perched on top of a bush.

Familiar Chat is reported almost religiously but no proof exists of FC in the Agulhas Plains. It is possible that the female Stonechat is incorrectly reported as FC. (One positive ID subsequently)

Capped Wheatear is common in the Plain. Found on cultivated private land.

SUNBIRDS

Orange-breasted Sunbird occurs on protea(fynbos) covered hills and mountains of the Agulhas Plain. Waterford and Sandberg in the AGNP is a good spot to find OBS.

Southern Double-collared Sunbird occurs almost anywhere in the Plains, but favours protea and other flowering fynbos.

Greater Double-collared Sunbird is an uncommon species in the area.

The above two species has provided with an ID problem. We certainly see two distinct Double-Collared S's in the area, the smaller SDCS and then a substantially larger GDCS which has a much longer bill, is much larger in size, but the broad red chest is never as wide as described in literature. Is this a local aberration or simply an incorrect identification?

Malachite Sunbird is the most common bird identified during the 5 year project and occurs in almost every habitat.

SPARROWS

House and Cape Sparrow are common.

Southern Grey-headed Sparrow is common and found in almost any habitat.

WEAVERS and BISHOPS

Cape Weaver is common. Don't be fooled by colour variations.

Southern Masked-Weaver is uncommon to common and found near water.

Southern Red Bishop roosts in reedbeds but is seen feeding in large groups in rather arid veld and cultivated land. Their non-breeding plumage changing to breeding plumage could be the cause of Red-billed Quelea being identified incorrectly in the Plain.

Yellow Bishop is common, usually near water.

WAXBILLS

Common Waxbill is common in the area and can be found in large numbers from time to time. Before going to press, Swee Waxbill has been identified on the farm Graskloof.

WHYDAH

Pin-tailed Whydah is common and seen in Elim and Nachtwacht pentad.

WAGTAILS and PIPITS

Cape Wagtail – common.

Cape Longclaw is almost always found near water in vegetation approx 30cm in height. Common in Nuwejaars river system.

African Pipit is about 80% of all pipits seen in the Plain and common.

Plain-backed Pipit is more abundant in the northern pentads, but still common.

Long-billed Pipit is uncommon.

FINCHES and CANARIES

Cape Canary is common in the alien forested areas, favouring tree tops.

Yellow Canary is common and normally seen in groups of 1-3 dozen (up to hundreds) in cultivated land.

Brimstone Canary is seen in 2-3m high vegetation. Almost always seen single or in pairs.

White-throated Canary in this region is uncommon. In this region they seem to have a smaller build and smaller bill than northern species.

Streaky-headed Seedeater is common and sometimes seen feeding ferociously on fruit-bearing trees. Can be seen at Kosierskraal and Zandvlakte Guest House.

BUNTINGS

Cape Bunting is uncommon and sometimes seen in covered sand dunes.

MIGRANTS OF THE AGULHAS PLAINS

The Agulhas Plain have 33 Palearctic Migrants and 1 Nearctic visitor. Of these Palearctic migrants about 24 are regular visitors and fairly common. The majority of Palearctic migrants seem to appear quite late in October. The exception being the Yellow-billed Kite which appears in September. The Booted Eagle seen in July, more than likely are from the local breeding population and seems to stay in the area. Most of the migrant waders seem to reach the southern tip of Africa by September. Barn Swallow interestingly is seen

Abdim's Stork														
Red-chested Cuckoo														
Dideric Cuckoo														
Namaqua Dove														
African Reed-Warbler														
Acacia Pied Barbet														
African Paradise-Flycatcher														
Black Saw-wing														
White-throated Swallow														
White-rumped Swift														
Pearl-breasted Swallow														
Banded Martin														
Greater Striped Swallow														

RED DATA SPECIES OF THE AGULHAS PLAINS

The Agulhas Plain hosts a number of Red Data species. The latest publication(2013) has not been located. This data could be used to market the area as birding destination. :

SA Red Data List (Barnes 2000) Page
1

RobertsVII common name (new)	Scientific name	Afrikaans name	Endemic
ENDANGERED			
Hottentot Buttonquail	Turnix hottentottus	Kaapse Kwarteltjie	
Damara Tern	Sterna balaenarum	Damarasterretjie	
VULNERABLE			
Denham's Bustard	Neotis denhami	Veldpou	
Blue Crane	Anthropoides paradiseus	Bloukraanvoël	•
Cape Vulture	Gyps coprotheres	Kransaasvoël	•
African Marsh-Harrier	Circus ranivorus	Afrikaanse Vleivalk(Paddavreter)	
Martial Eagle	Polemaetus bellicosus	Breëkoparend	
Cape Gannet	Morus capensis	Witmalgas	
Bank Cormorant	Phalacrocorax neglectus	Bankduiker	•
African Penguin	Spheniscus demersus	Brilpikkewyn	•
NEAR-THREATENED			
Greater Painted-snipe	Rostratula benghalensis	Goudsnip	
African Black Oystercatcher	Haematopus moquini	Swarttobie	•
Chestnut-banded Plover	Charadrius pallidus	Rooibandstrandkiewiet	
Caspian Tern	Sterna caspia	Reusesterretjie	
Black Harrier	Circus maurus	Witkruisvleivalk (-paddavreter)	•
Secretarybird	Sagittarius serpentarius	Sekretarisvoël	
Lanner Falcon	Falco biarmicus	Edelvalk	
Crowned Cormorant	Phalacrocorax coronatus	Kuifkopduiker	•
Cape Cormorant	Phalacrocorax capensis	Trekduiker	•

Greater Flamingo	Phoenicopterus ruber	Grootflamink	
Lesser Flamingo	Phoenicopterus minor	Kleinflamink	
Great White Pelican	Pelecanus onocrotalus	Witpelikaan	
African Openbill	Anastomus lamelligerus	Oopbekooievaar	
Black Stork	Ciconia nigra	Grootswartooievaar	
Marabou Stork	Leptoptilos crumeniferus	Maraboe	
Northern Giant-Petrel	Macronectes halli	Grootnellie	

BIRDHIDES

For a very long time there has been plans to build bird hides in the Agulhas National Park. After 5 years of birding in the park the following thoughts came to the fore:

1. Bird hides built in the area will enhance the birding/holiday experience significantly.
2. Building it partly with local reeds could give it a nice local touch and reduce costs.
3. Bird hides attract photographers and should be designed to suite them. Photographers have specific needs such as natural elements (dead trees, rocks) close to the hides.
4. Bird hides should be researched before they are built. It is important that the position of each hide be ascertained before the investments are made because of the seasonality. Some excellent spots for a hide might be completely dry in summer.
5. It probably would make sense to have 8x4m² hides rather than 4x8m² hides.
6. Access to hides should be well planned for security reasons as the AGNP currently is not a fenced area.

THE FUTURE

The successes of the past 5 months(after the project ended) has proven to me that 5 years of research is still far from ideal. One would need more field sheets in winter in order to know exactly what species occur during winter. Observational techniques needs to be more sophisticated in order to observe some of the species accurately. Species such as Flufftail, Crakes, Snipes and Bittern, probably are more common than currently observed. Mobile hides pitched close to reedbeds could reveal much about these elusive species.

Future methodology also needs to change to MYBIRDPATCH style as this makes birding more meaningful for the AGNP and NSMA members who would like to use birding as a marketing tool. The information gathered can still be used to augment this project and a short yearly follow-up report of this project, could make sense.

CONCLUSION

What have we achieved in this project? What have we learned about birding in the Agulhas Plain? From the authors perspective I would humbly like to offer a few thoughts:

1. Birding should be one of the legs of a tourism business plan for the area. Birding is a multimillion dollar business internationally and attracts a good quality tourist.

2. The Agulhas National Park and the Nuwejaarsrivier SMA and Cape Nature reserve assets (De Mond and Quoin Point) form a much stronger attraction for birders, than any of these on their own. If the area would like to keep visitors in the area for longer, they will need all the areas as attractions.
3. The removal of alien plants in the Agulhas National Park has changed the park dramatically. Aesthetically it certainly has improved the park. It also has its effect on the bird population in various ways.
 - a. As mentioned, the Caspian Tern stopped breeding at the Springfield Saltpans. The removal of aliens has increased the water collected by the pans which means we have more water for longer periods in the Springfield saltpans.
 - b. Certain waders need very shallow water or muddy terrain in order to feed and too much water could affect their feeding ground.
 - c. Certain species which prefer alien forests such as Black Sparrowhawk, Forest Buzzard, Lesser Honeyguide and Acacia Pied Barbet will most likely move away from the AGNP to the neighbouring alien forests on farms in the vicinity.
 - d. Wetlands in the AGNP will certainly in time rehabilitate to increase the reptile numbers such as frog and snakes. This could positively affect the bird population.
4. Every ranger of the AGNP needs to receive training on "Birds of the Agulhas Plain". The best ones should be trained as bird guides and furnished with binoculars and bird guides. A powerpoint training program has been developed as part of the project.
5. The NSMA members should also be interested in such a presentation as birding is an asset that could be of value to them.
6. The NSMA has some of the best spots for bird hides. These are often near accommodation which can be marketed to birders.

THANK YOU

I would like to thank the staff of the AGNP for the privilege to be involved with the Agulhas Birding Project. Emmerentia, thank you for all the support.

I would also like to offer a special thanks to the members of the Nuwejaarsrivier SMA, many of whom have become friends in caring for our natural heritage. All of them have treated me so well and received me so friendly that I will always be indebted.

Please understand that the opinions raised in this report is by no means professional and simply meant to stimulate thought. Please do not be offended by anything if this unintentionally happened. I assure you this report is meant only as a positive gesture towards creating a better South Africa.

Yours

Wim de Klerk