



BIRDS OF THE MAGALIESBERG



*A Brits Hartbeespoort Rotary Club
Preserve The Planet Project*

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BIRDS OF THE MAGALIESBERG

Directions from OR Tambo International Airport

The Magaliesberg is about an hour and a half drive from OR Tambo Airport, the gateway being the Hartbeespoort dam area.

Take the R21-North to Pretoria. Shortly before Pretoria, turn onto the N1-North towards Polokwane and then later the N4-West towards Rustenburg. Pass through two toll gates and take the R511 off ramp, turning left into the R511. Proceed south easterly to Hartbeespoort going over the historical Silkaats Neck. After going over Silkaats Nek turn right into Hartbeespoort by remaining in the R511. From Hartbeespoort follow the signs to Brits going over the Hartbeespoort Dam wall and turn left at the Damdoryn Fourway stop and proceed up the Skeerpoort Valley to the town of Magaliesberg.



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MAGALIES MEANDER

Magalies Meander



To discover the Magic of this unique region contact info@magaliesmeander.co.za or www.magaliesmeander.co.za for a free visitors guide, which will assist you in exploring this ancient mountain and its surrounding areas. This guide will assist you to select short walks, horse trails, hot air balloon experiences etc, and thus enabling one to experience these breathtaking natural areas, where one can discover it all for oneself and walk in the footsteps of early man.

The Magaliesberg bird Checklist is available from a number of points apart from the lodges and areas of interest indicated in the text.

Birdlife SA office

Randburg

Tel: +27 (0) 11 789 1122

Wildlife Society of South Africa Northern Areas

Blackwood Road, Bryanston

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The team would like to thank the following

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The Project partners would like to thank all the sponsors and advertisers for their contributions, especially Richard Hughes of Sasol, the Rotary Club of Brits-Hartbeespoort and Jack Seale from Hartbeespoort Snake and Animal Park without whom the project would not have been possible. We would also like to thank Garth Hay and Rodney Reilly from Glencore Mining for their ongoing support of the conservation of the Magaliesberg.

Please link to the Brits-Hartbeespoort Rotary Club website for e-lists, additions to bird list as well as photos and information on the region.
www.rotarybrits.org

You can also catch up on what's happening in the region by joining the Birdlife Harties Facebook page.



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*Magalies
Meander*

Est 1998

discover the
magaliesberg

SOUTH AFRICA



Magalies Meander

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www.magaliesmeander.co.za

BIRDING OPPORTUNITIES ON THE DOORSTEP OF PRETORIA AND JOHANNESBURG

Birding opportunities on the doorstep of two of our largest cities in South Africa - Pretoria and Johannesburg and in one of the oldest mountain ranges in the world, where it all began millions of years ago.

The Magaliesberg (historically also known as Cashan Mountains) is an approximately 140km long mountain range extending from Pretoria, in the north of the Gauteng Province, to a point south of Pilanesberg, in the North West Province, South Africa. The range is approx 60km North of Johannesburg. The highest point of the mountain is reached at Nooitgedacht (1852 metres) East edge: 25°51'30"S 27°31'48"E Western Edge: 25.8583°S 27.530°E. The Magaliesberg forms our first major component of the Birdlife SA\WESSA North West Birding route and is ideally placed for birding enthusiasts from the highly populated Cities to the South and East of it. This registered Important Bird Area (IBA 025 see notes) is steeped in rich cultural and biological history. Naturalists have explored this region since the earliest times and must have stood in awe of such a beautiful area. It is here that the first Sable was discovered and documented in 1836 by Cornwallis Harris. The mountain is made up of some very old quartzites of the Witwatersrand complex in the Transvaal Super group of sediments and forms a natural rift between the Highveld and the Bushveld with its warmer climate. This mountain and its surroundings is endowed with some of the best bird habitats in the country (over 450 species) and is also home to a number of special Red Data listed species like the Cape Vulture, Black Stork, as well as the White-backed Night Heron, African Finfoot, Half-collared Kingfisher and African Black Duck that hideaway in the narrows of the Magalies and Crocodile Rivers. Recently White-bellied Korhaan

and Yellow-throated Sandgrouse have been found in close proximity to the mountain. This range will soon become a registered UNESCO Biosphere recognising it as an area of international importance for man and biodiversity.

The Magaliesberg is also a river catchment of national and international importance.

Kloofs add scenic and geological interest to the range, and include waterfalls which run into deep rock pools. Unfortunately most of these rivers are now highly polluted and classed as endangered or critically endangered.

The mountain towers over the Hartbeespoort Dam that although being surrounded by intensive development, is still a haven for waterfowl and waders. It is quite common to see large numbers of Squacco Herons sharing their feeding grounds with African Jacanas and hundreds of Red-knobbed Coots who feed on the alien invasive plant, water Hyacinth. Large flocks of White-faced Whistling Ducks decorate the shallow water of the dam while White Pelicans may sometimes visit the deeper waters. The African Fish-Eagle is a common breeding resident on the dam and during summer also expect to see the Honey Buzzard. The dense stands of Bluegums are home to Black and Ovambo Sparrowhawks while the Spotted Eagle-Owls also frequent these trees. Higher up on the mountain slopes the Cape Eagle-Owl is a special treat and the African Scops-owl calls all over the montane bush. White-faced Scops Owl and Pearl Spotted owlets are regularly seen and heard in the adjacent bushveld areas and often venturing into town and farm gardens.

The Magaliesberg hosts three Cape Vulture colonies (under habitats). These scavengers enjoy the respect and support of all the inhabitants of the Magaliesberg and share their cliffs with swallows, swifts, kestrels,

BIRDING OPPORTUNITIES ON THE DOORSTEP OF PRETORIA AND JOHANNESBURG

Black Storks, Cape Rock Thrushes and many other interesting birds. Many years ago there were large flocks of Blue Cranes in the region, especially in the open grasslands of the Moot Valley Bushveld in the Western side of the valley, but today they are rarely seen with only one or two pairs being known to occur in secluded localities.

Except in the Koster area to the west of the mountain range where regular sightings occur Secretary birds still occur in the grasslands where larks and cisticolas are abundant. Insects in the grasslands attract large numbers of European, White-fronted and Little Bee-eaters in summer and some records even exist of Carmine Bee-eaters around the Hartbeespoort Dam. During the winter months flocks of Swallow-tailed Bee-eaters move in from the Kalahari Thornveld and sporadically occur along the length of the mountain. In the more wooded areas the Grey-headed Bush Shrike calls its woeful call only to be challenged by the Crimson-breasted Shrike. Some areas have a few resident Orange-breasted Bush Shrikes and in summer the Red-backed Shrikes are found just north of the Magaliesberg range. The Black-chested Snake-Eagle is a common sight as it patrols the valleys looking for its next meal. A large number of mammal species still occur from Leopards, Brown Hyena, Serval, Kudu to the smaller Klipspringer and Smiths red rabbit which are often seen on the crest of the mountain.

If visiting the region during mid- to late winter look out for the spectacular Aloes in flower including Aloe peglerae which is endemic to these mountains and surrounding hills as well as Aloe marlothii and Aloe mutabilis.

To gain the most value in this region one needs to spend a few days exploring this ancient landscape. Please see suggested accommodation venues in text.

Tips to enhance to your Magaliesberg birding experience:

Best times to bird watch are two to three hours after sunrise and the same before sunset (depending on the season). Care must be taken when climbing the mountains during summer months especially in the afternoons due to rapid build up of electrical thunderstorms. Summer months are more rewarding due to the presence of all the migrants and the abundance of food. Look out for flowering trees, shrubs and seeding grasses as birds will congregate around them. The dams and rivers provide one with many opportunities to spot a large number of water birds and canoeing down the quiet rivers can be very rewarding with regular sightings of White-backed Night Heron. In the woodland areas listen and watch out for bird parties as they often consist of a number of species. Keep groups small and do not make a noise. Wear unobtrusive clothing and plan to walk with the sun behind you as far as possible.

Use binoculars with a magnification of 7 to 10 x, preferably wide angle with a good neck strap.


Enjoy your birding in our region.

Notes:

IBA: The function of the Important Bird Areas (IBA) programme is to identify and protect a network of sites, at a biogeographic scale, critical for the long-term viability of naturally occurring bird populations, across the range of those bird species for which a site-based approach is appropriate. The Magaliesberg is "the last haven" of this fast growing region that offers a wonderful area with a rich birdlife. Development is putting huge stress on the environment and the future of some of the unspoilt natural areas is in the balance. Birds may just be the last usable tool in preventing any further demise of the Magaliesberg region. Enjoy them now while you still can.

John Wesson

INDEX OF LOCALITIES




Wonderboom to Akasia




De Wildt / Rietfontein



Hartbeespoort / Skeerpoort



Buffelspoort



Rustenburg / Kgaswane



Personal Checklist

Refer to the map on Pages 26 & 27

Wonderboom to Akasia

This is the most easterly point, and start of the Birds of the Magaliesberg focus area. Running from the suburbs of Derdepoort (around the N1 highway), including suburbs like Bergtuin, East Lynne, Waverley, Rietfontein and Mountainview in the South with Montana Park, Magalieskruin, Wonderboom, Annlin, Pretoria North, Akasia, Amandasig in the North.

- This section of the list starts at the N1
- and ends at Hornsnek pass over the Mountain. It also has a wide variety
- of habitats as it includes the Bon Accord Dam and Dolerite hills around Onderstepoort. Most of this area of the mountain, especially the greater part of the Eastern section, has limited access to the mountain due to the properties forming a barrier around the base. If walking in this part of the mountain it is recommended to do so as a group as the area is often frequented by vagrants. There have been attempts to fence off parts of this protected area to conserve it and thus only allowing limited access.

WONDERBOOM NATURE RESERVE:

GPS CO: 'S25 41.202 E028 11 384'

- The Wonderboom Nature Reserve is situated in the northern part of the city and straddles the Magaliesberg Mountains. This 200ha reserve is famous for its magnificent specimen of *Ficus salicifolia*, a wild fig called the "Wonderboom".

The fig tree is older than 1 000 years, and legend has it that it grew this big because the chief of an indigenous tribe lies buried beneath its roots. It is recorded that the tree was once big enough to shade 1 000 people at a time, or 22 oxwagons with 20 oxen in front of each! Today it is much smaller and this is probably because of a devastating fire in 1870, which was started by a hunting party, or because of a parasitic infestation, which put it in quarantine for 20 years. Over the years the branches have grown longer, hanging lower and lower until

they touched the ground and rooted and produced a circle of daughter trees. There are now three circles of daughter trees surrounding the original tree. Go and see this amazing tree, and take the interpretation trail from the new boardwalk in and around the tree.

Wonderboom Nature Reserve has a large number of Dassies (rock hyrax) living in caves overlooking the Apies River. They provide a food source for a breeding pair of Verreaux's Eagles that nest on a rocky ledge nearby and who can often be seen circling above the reserve.

At the top of the Wonderboom Hill are the ruins of the Wonderboom Fort, one of four forts built by the former Zuid-Afrikaansche Republiek at the end of the 19th century, to defend Pretoria against the British forces. It was never used and blown up, probably on the instruction of Prime Minister Jan Smuts, in the early days of the Second World War, lest it be used by anti-government dissidents as a springboard for an attack on the State. At the foot of the hill near the Wonderboom is an important Iron Age site, and nearby is one of the best Stone Age sites in the area.

The reserve has picnic facilities.

How to get there?

Drive northwards on Paul Kruger Street (R101) and Mansfield Avenue for about 6 to 7 km from the city centre. Immediately after the road goes through the opening in the Magaliesberg range, turn right onto the M1 and cross the Apies River. The entrance is on the right about 300 m from the R101.







De Wildt / Rietfontein

Situated north and south of the Magaliesberg, this relatively pristine part of the Magaliesberg, with its highest point being just over 1600m above sea level, lies between Zilkaatsnek in the West and Hornsnek in the East. To the North lies Garankuwa and to the South the Witwatersberg.

This relatively unspoilt part of the region is ideal for rambling up in the mountains. There are a number of well forested gullies and bush areas. The larger part to the north in the De Wildt area, is the **PEGLERAE CONSERVANCY**.

THE HOEKIE CAMP:

When staying at a place like the Hoekie, which has extensive camping and bungalow facilities, one has easy access to the mountain rising some 300m behind it.

GPS CO S 25° 40.392 E 027 58.013'

The southern side has a number of important wetland and water areas, running along the Swartspruit. Most of these areas fall within the Xanadu Nature Estate, where the river is dammed up in a few places and extensive grassland and wetlands occur.

Accommodation

- The Hoekie

VULPRO: (Vulture Programme)

GPS CO: S 25° 42.660 E 027 57.168

Established in 2007, the centre approaches vulture conservation in an integrated and multidisciplinary fashion, combining education and good science, rehabilitation and conservation activities with networking, capacity building and knowledge generation.

Their Objective: Saving the Cape Vulture (and other vulture species) from extinction through:

- Vulture rehabilitation
- Monitoring distribution and foraging ranges of vultures in southern Africa
- Monitoring Cape Vulture populations and breeding success
- Veterinary and ecological research related to vultures
- Cape Vulture breeding programme for reintroduction of the species into Namibia
- Public educational and awareness programmes in support of vulture conservation.

For visits to the centre contact:

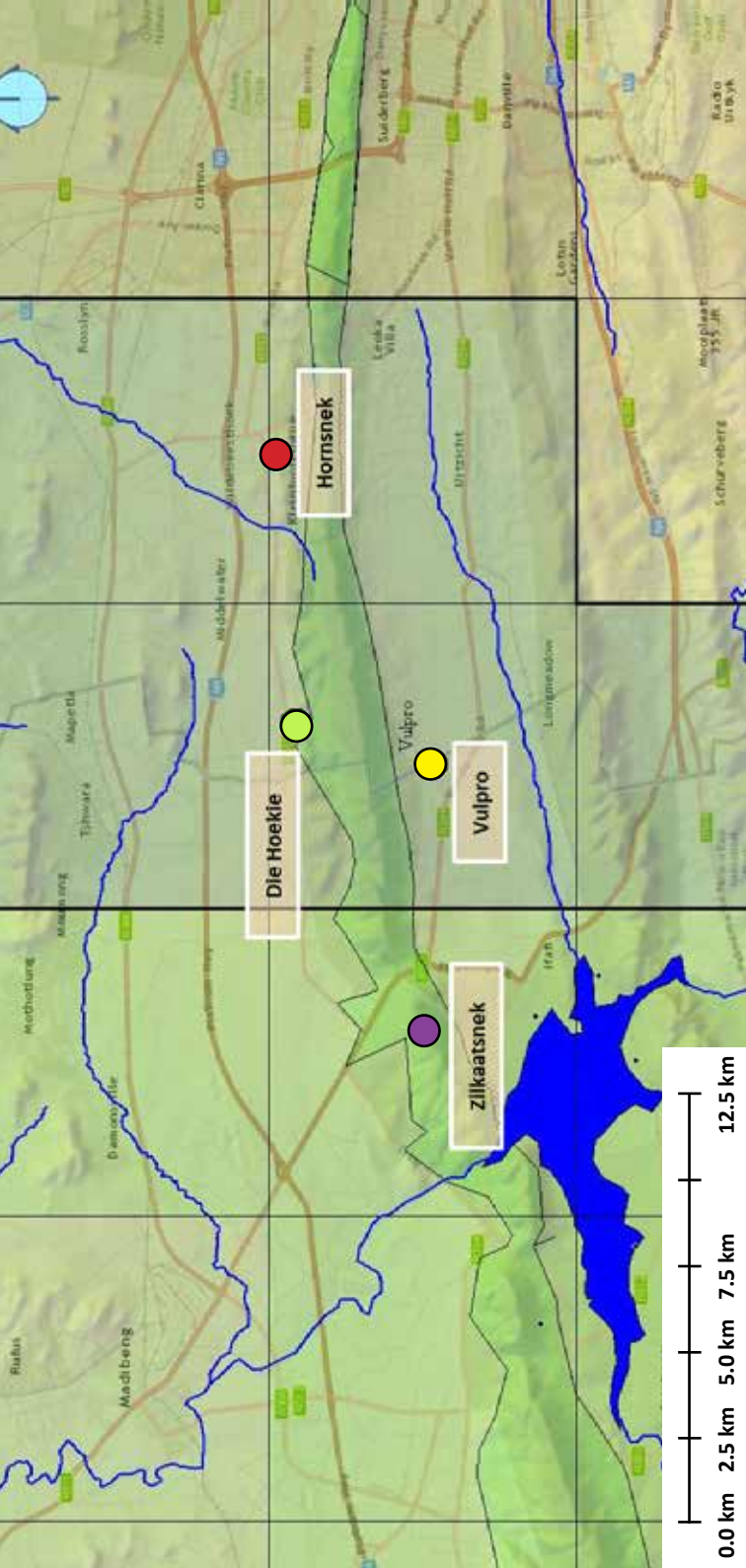
Kerri Wolter

Mobile: +27 82 808 5113

E-mail: kerri.wolter@gmail.com

Web: www.vulpro.com







Hartbeespoort / Skeerpoort

The Hartbeespoort dam and surrounding areas have been a prime tourist destination in the region since the dam wall was completed in 1923, with the main river feeding it being the Crocodile River.

Take the R511 from Johannesburg to Brits and follow the signs to Hartbeespoort Dam.

● **The RING OXWAGON LODGE:**

As you come over the hill (Saartjies Nek) and drop down towards the dam, you will be rewarded with magnificent scenery especially at sunset. First port of call is the Ring Oxwagon Lodge, on your right hand side and up the hill. From the lodge one can look out over the valley below. The lodge also has a short walking trail.

Watch out for Mocking CliffChat around the thatched central areas, Amethyst and White-bellied Sunbirds, a large variety of seed eaters, especially when the grasses are seeding, including Red-collared widows. The Birds of the Magaliesberg checklist is available from the lodge.

GPS CO: S 25° 45.532 E 027 55.564'

From here continue your drive down the hill stopping at the bridge over the Swartspruit. The Swartspruit is dammed up in the Xanadu Nature Estate and is often home to a number of fish eating birds, including White-breasted and Reed Cormorants, Pied and Malachite Kingfishers, African Darters and Fish eagles.

At this point turn around and turn right at the traffic light that takes you past the Jasmyn Centre.

This area is worth a stroll through as they have a water feature and an indigenous garden surrounding the pond. Half-collared Kingfishers have been recorded in the water features. After leaving Jasmyn continue straight along road to the Meerhof Picnic grounds.

● **MEERHOF PICNIC GROUNDS:**

This area offers good views of the dam and opportunities to see a

number of the dam's birds including various Grebes, Geese and Ducks. The ever present Little Egret will be found along the shoreline.

GPS CO: S 25° 43.686 E 027 53.642'

The trees in this resort also provide refuge for a wide variety of bushveld birds.

Driving back, turn left just before Jacana Estate. Here you will find **MEERHOF LODGE** on the left, continue straight, following the edge of the dam and cross over the Swartspruit.

You will find Pallusade fencing on both sides. From this point one can look across the dam, and often see a large number of waterbirds especially in the early morning. To the left and right, is The Meerhof Conservancy, a protected 'no public access' area.

● **MEERHOF CONSERVANCY:**

The Conservancy is set aside for breeding birds including the Fish Eagle and African Grass Owl. The areas covered by water Hyacinth are often frequented by African Jacana and Black Crake. Continue up the hill past Birdwood estate, at the T junction turn right and at the main R511 turn left and continue straight past Sediba Plaza on your left across the 4 way stop into Schoemansville.

● **SCHOEMANSVILLE RESORT:**

Turn left into Marais Street and continue straight down towards the dam until the bend where you will find the Schoemansville resort gate. Drive in and park your car and you will have safe access to a large area of the Northern shore and patches of Acacia woodland that host a number of bird species.

GPS CO: S 25° 44.114 E 027 52.969'

○ **HARTBESPOORT SNAKE & ANIMAL PARK:**

Return back up Marais Street and turn left. Before reaching the Dam Wall you will see the Hartbeespoort Dam Snake and Animal Park on your left. The Park has a wide variety of interesting animals, reptiles and birds,

including breeding Cape Vultures and other birds of prey resident in the area. It is well worth the visit. The park also arranges boat rides on the dam.

GPS CO: S 25° 43.764 E 027 51.531'

Jack Seale the owner is custodian of a few key conservation areas, around the dam including the Meerhof Conservancy Bird Sanctuary.

DAM WALL:

When you reach the Hartbeespoort dam wall, parking is available on the far side, once through the tunnel. Walk back along the wall and look for various swift species, Verreaux's Eagles, and the many other birds that frequent these rocky areas. (Be careful of hawkers at the parking area). From here continue along the road to a 4 way stop. Turn left going over Kommando Nek. Follow this road going past Kosmos, and turn left and cross the dam once again.

DAM BRIDGE:

Park on the far side and walk back onto the bridge. On a quiet day one can see a wide variety of birds which could include White faced duck, Comb Duck, Cormorants etc.

GPS CO: S 25° 45.595 E 027 48.227'

From the bridge do a U-turn and drive back towards the mountain turning left, at the T junction.

LEOPARD LODGE:

Continue in a Westerly direction, stopping opposite Leopard Lodge Park turn off and scan the cliffs above for the over 280 pairs of Cape Vulture nesting there. Also look out for Black Stork and Rock Kestrel who also nest in this site. For a closer look, Leopard Lodge is well worth staying over at with magnificent views over the valley below and set just below the Vulture colony. The bush surrounding the lodge is typical Moot Valley bushveld, and is home to a wide variety of birds and introduced game.

GPS CO: S 25° 45.708 E 027 46. 033'

VAN GAALEN CHEESE FARM:

Passing Leopard Lodge continue along to Van Gaalen Cheese farm for excellent refreshments and homemade cheese. The farm offers picnic baskets and self guided walks along the Skeerpoort and Magaliesberg rivers. From the restaurant verandah one has magnificent views of the Magaliesberg to the north west.

The farm is one of the top mountain biking areas in the region. Birds like Half-collared Kingfishers, White-backed Night Heron and African Finfoot have been recorded along these quite waterways. The Birds of the Magaliesberg Checklist is also available at the farm.

GPS CO: S 25° 47. 270' E 02746. 330'

NYOKA RIDGE VULTURE RESTAURANT:

Approximately 5km from the farm in Skeerpoort is the Nyoka Ridge Vulture restaurant and monitoring project. This is a project run by Nyoka Ridge Farm, Brits-Hartbeespoort Rotary Club, the Wildlife & Environment Society of SA (WESSA) and Birdlife Harties.

The Vulture Restaurant may be visited by contacting Paul on 082 990 3533. There is an entry fee payable. Feeding takes place weekly on a Saturday or Sunday morning.

GPS CO: S 25° 48.516 E 027 43.122

From here take the road opposite the cheese farm heading back to the dam.

NORTHERN TRANSVAAL FISHING RESORT:

Before reaching the bridge intersection, watch out for the Lakeland Estate turnoff on your left. This road takes you under the bridge road and to the Northern Transvaal fishing camp. Watch out for the resident White-fronted Bee eaters. This area provides ideal wader and other water bird spotting opportunities, having open level water edges that are ideal feeding areas for water birds.

GPS CO: S 25° 45.924 E 027 49.154'

After leaving the fishing camp head back to the main road and turn left. On passing Pecanwood Estate, turn left before the shopping centre and follow the road along the southern side of the dam.

OBERON:

You drive through mixed bushveld, riverine woodland and past grassy areas until you reach Oberon, a picnic and camping resort. It is worth paying to go in to view the wide variety of birds in this area. Often large flocks of Egyptian geese are seen grazing on the shores. There are also magnificent views of the dam.

GPS CO: S 25° 45.954 E 027 52.713'

On completing your walk one can continue back and at the shopping centre T junction turn left and follow the road over the hill. Continue to the Villa d' Afrique sign, turn left here, and follow the road to the estate gate. In wet years this area is often home to many waders.

Finally continue back to the T junction, turning left and a short while later right onto the R 511, back towards Johannesburg.

To get some good views of birds on the dam, it is often worthwhile to take an early morning or late afternoon cruise, on the **Hartbeespoort Animal and Snake Park** pleasure boat. Many of the open water species can be seen such as Great- crested Grebe, Cormorants, Darters and duck. If you are fortunate you may witness the magnificent Fish Eagle doing some fishing!

MAGALIESBERG CABLEWAY:

A recent addition to the area is the reopened Magaliesberg cableway, on the southern side of the mountain in Schoemansville, where one has magnificent views over the dam and beyond. It is well worth the effort to go up.

GPS CO: S 25° 43.266 E 027 53.076'

To the North of the Magaliesberg, near Dam Doryn is the **Bushbaby Monkey Sanctuary** and **Elephant Sanctuary** that enables up close and personal experiences with these animals. This also affords the opportunity to explore the magnificent woodlands found in that area for birds

GPS CO S 26° 07.980 E 028 13.732'




LESEDI AFRICAN LODGE AND CULTURAL VILLAGE:

Set in the pristine bushveld just a few km south of Hartbeespoort dam on the R 512 to Lanseria. The lodge and cultural village awaits those willing to participate in an adventure that reveals the mystical cultures and traditions of the people of Africa, steeped in tribal folklore and ancestral traditions. Our culture is the light of our nation – whoever walks here amongst our cultures at Lesedi can also see the light.

GPS CO S 25° 50.263 E 027 53.064'

The best birding season is summer, when most of the migrants are back and there is always something to see in the region. Other tourist information is available in the Magalies Meander Brochure.

Accommodation

-  **The Ring Oxwagon Lodge**
-  **Leopard Lodge**
-  **Meerhof Lodge**
- Lesedi Lodge & Cultural Village**

Restaurants supporting our conservation efforts are:

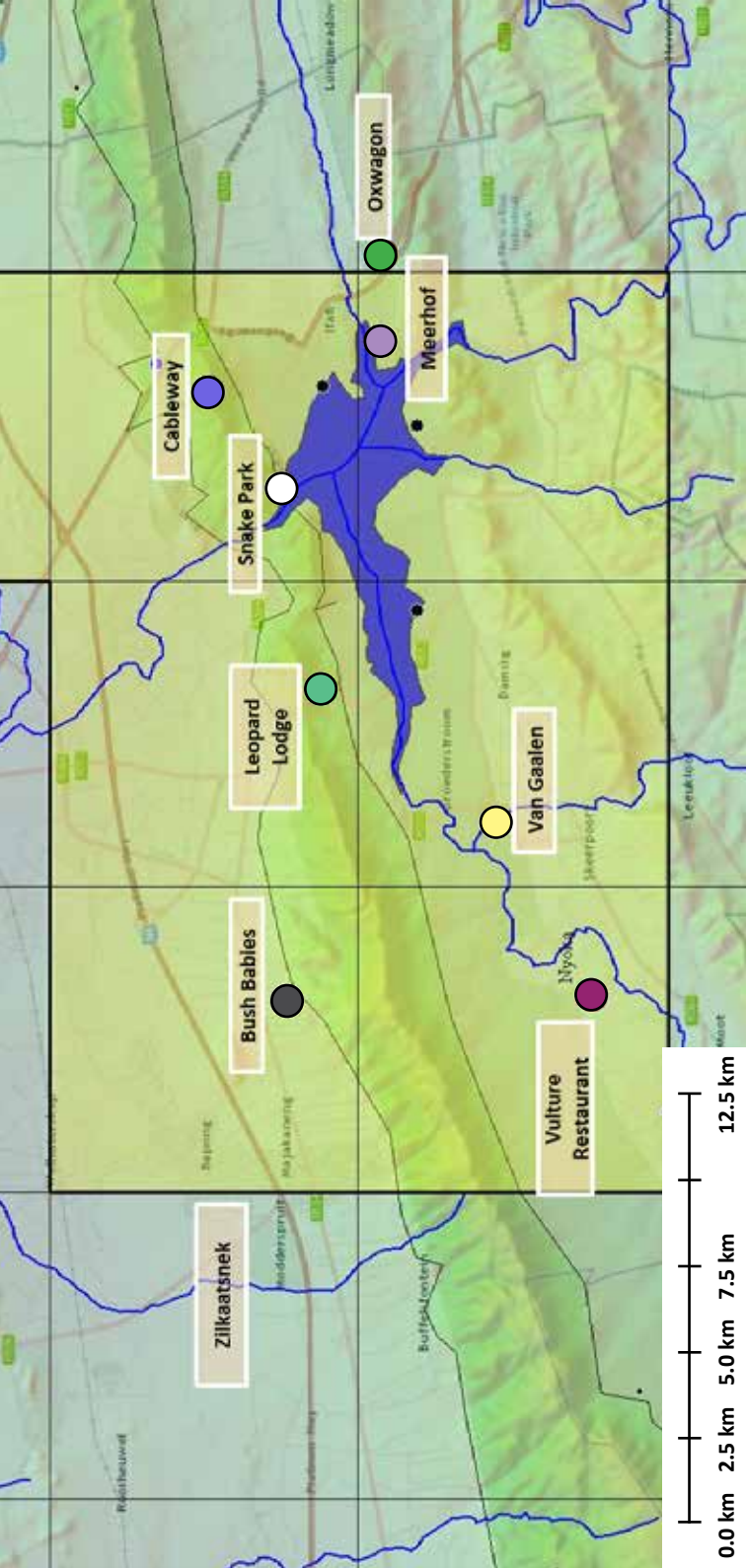
- **Mugg & Bean** at Sediba Plaza
- **The Dros** at Sediba Plaza

GPS CO for Sediba Plaza:

S 25° 44.244 E 027 53.969'

- **Fishing Resorts**







Buffelspoort

Buffelspoort Dam is an arch type dam in the Sterkstroom River, a tributary to the Crocodile River, North West Province. It was built for irrigation purposes and it is owned by the Department of Water Affairs. The dam was opened in 1937. A large part of this area is being conserved by the Buffelspoort Valley and Hartbeesfontein conservancies.

● SPARKLING WATERS HOTEL:

Kranskloof Hiking Trails, Sparkling Waters Hotel and Canopy tours

Sparkling Waters Hotel is set in well wooded gardens teeming with birds and is an excellent base from which to explore this part of the region. A number of trails have been set up from the Hotel, offering magnificent mountain scenery, tree and tree fern filled gorges, with stunning rock formations and mountain pools. Walks are reasonably easy, thus suitable for the whole family for day or weekend excursions. Sparkling Waters offers canopy tours from where one can view the Mountain from another perspective. Birds include a variety of raptors such as the African Hawk Eagle, Tawny Eagle, Wahlberg's Eagle, Lappet-faced Vulture and Cuckoohawk. Mountain specials include Short-toed Rock Thrush, Cape Rock Thrush, Cape Bunting and Cinnamon-breasted Bunting.

Information:

Kranskloof

Mr Ronnie Bartlett
014 535 0022

Sparkling Waters Hotel & Magaliesberg Canopy Tours

014 535 0000/6
082 859 4036

GPS CO: S 25° 49.775 E 027 24.708'

Bergheim Hiking Trail and Resort

Bergheim is situated on the northern side of the Magaliesberg close to Rustenburg. This day trail boasts beautiful rock strewn streams and forested gorges. The climb is rather strenuous so a fair degree of fitness

is required.

Information:

Bergheim

014 537 2363

● **Castle Gorge and environs**

This day trail is situated in the Hekpoort area. It starts on the southern slopes of the Magaliesberg and offers some of the most spectacular scenery and rock formation in the mountain, hence the name. There is safe parking.

Note:

WALKING BY PERMIT ONLY

Johannesburg Hiking Club

Marion Hüfner

(Mon to Fri 08.30-12.30)

011 590 1903

A number of other trails in the region are controlled by the Mountain Club of South Africa and a permit is also required.

Tonquani/Cedarberg/Mhlabatini Kloof

Uschi Magg

011 807 1310

(Weekdays 08:30 - 10:00)

Grootkloof/Dome Pools

Kari Louw

(Weekdays 08:00 - 10:00)

083 845 1573

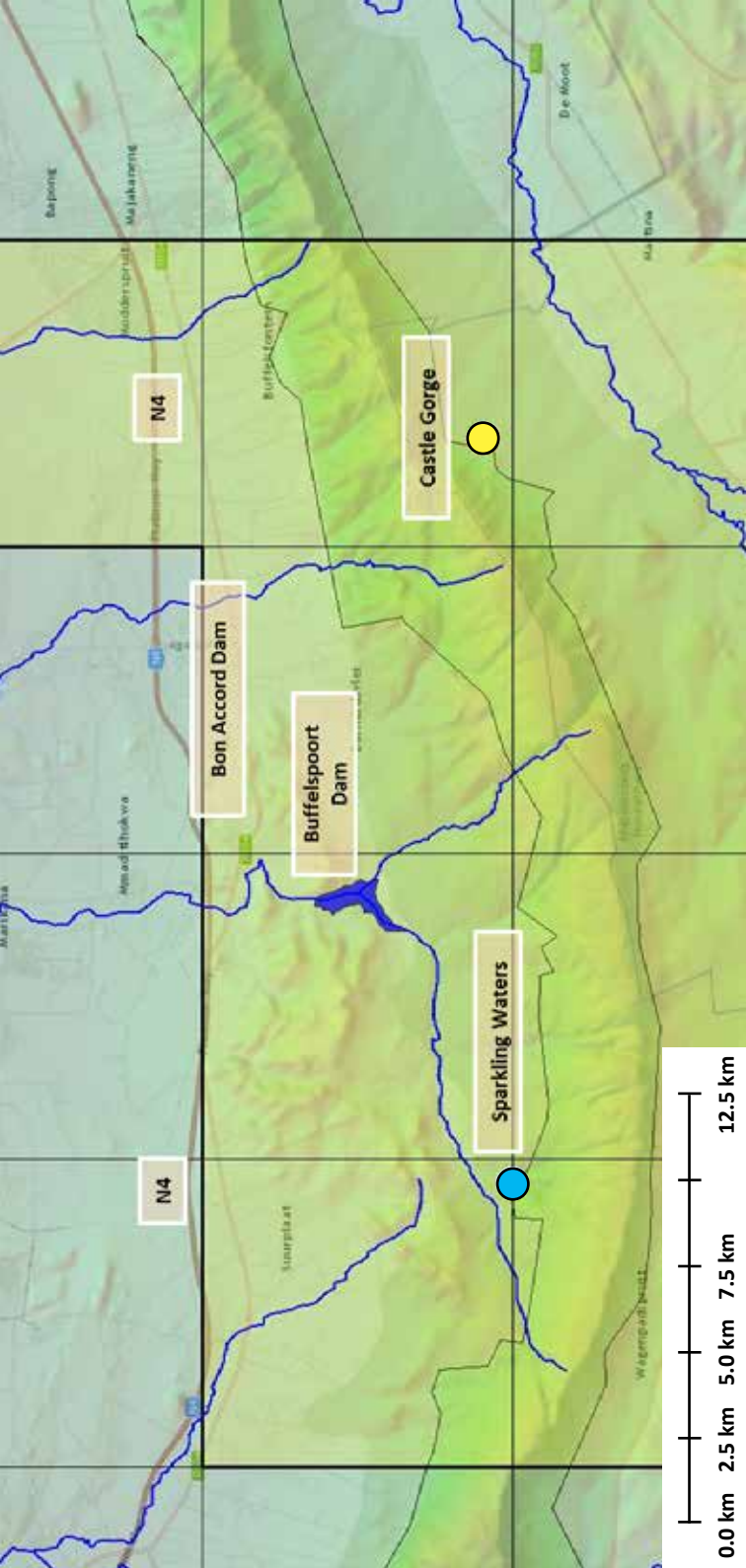
All the above is over rough terrain through spectacular mountain scenery.


An alternative route is across the mountain, to the Buffelspoort Dam, and over Breedsnek Pass (very poor condition) down into the Nootgedacht, Scheerpoort areas, where there is magnificent scenery.

This area has a number of lodges and private nature reserves where one can base oneself and explore this part of the Mountain.

Accommodation

● **Sparkling Waters Hotel**





Rustenburg / Kgaswane

Rustenburg is the final city at the far Western point of our focus area for this list. The town is steeped in history and was founded in 1851.

Kgaswane Mountain Reserve

Kgaswane Mountain Reserve, adjacent to the town of Rustenburg, can be very rewarding as it gives one the opportunity to drive up into the mountain areas. This 4257ha reserve is set in the bio-diverse habitats of the northern slopes of the Magaliesberg mountains. Habitats vary from quartzite peaks to Protea belts, wetlands and rolling grasslands.

The principal wetland forms the central area of the reserve and is the catchment area for the Hex river.

This reserve hosts a wide variety of antelope species which include: Klipspringer, Oribi, Grey duiker, Bushbuck, Kudu, Mountain reedbuck, Impala, Red hartebeest, Zebra, Springbok, Steenbok, Waterbuck and well established herds of Sable antelope. Predators include Caracal, Aardwolf, Black backed Jackal and Leopard.

Of the over 450 bird species recorded for the Magaliesberg, **320** have been recorded in the reserve, including breeding Cape Vultures, Martial Eagle, Black-chested Snake Eagle, Brown Snake Eagle, Cape Vulture and Verreaux's Eagle, with Cape Eagle-Owls and Eurasian Hobby also recorded. Black Cuckooshrike and Short-toed Rock Thrush are amongst the other specials.

There are two trails in the reserve namely the day trail, Peglerae, which is a self-guided trail, supported by a booklet, and the Summit trail which is a challenging two day backpacking trail. This trail covers a distance of 25km, and takes one to waterfalls, striking rock formations, gorge forests and areas with magnificent vistas of the valleys below.

This reserve is easily accessible using a normal vehicle and if there are time constraints it is the best way to

see part of the mountain.

Location:

Situated on the outskirts of the town of Rustenburg, one hour from Johannesburg.

Accommodation:

A wide variety of options are available, including camping, a group camp, a hiking hut and cottage.

Information:

014 533 2050

GPS CO: S25 43 052 E 027 14 258

Rustenburg Area – Vlaklaagte Route

The Vlaklaagte Route is one of the most productive birding areas in the Rustenburg area. The open grassland on either side of the road is good for Northern Black Korhaan. Scan the Eskom poles for Amur Falcon, Lesser Kestrel, Carmine, White Fronted and European Bee-eaters in summer. Where the road crosses the Elands River, stop and check for African Finfoot, Half-Collared Kingfisher, and on the banks on the right hand side for breeding White Fronted Bee-eaters. Once over the bridge check the open grassland for Wattled Lapwing and Cape Longclaw. Turn left into the Vlakfontein road. This stretch of road is extremely good for woodland species such as Pied Babbler, Marico Sunbird, Ashy Tit, Brown-backed Honeybird, Red Crested Korhaan, Magpie Shrike, Waxbills. Hornbills and Francolins also occur along this stretch. Check both sides of the road, which is thick bushveld for Lilac-breasted Roller and Pied Babbler. Check the power lines continuously for Kestrels, Bee-eaters and Rollers. Pass the Matooster turn off and turn right into the Vlaklaagte road.

GPS CO: S25° 23.969 E026° 52.778

Open grassland on the left, is good for Pallid Harrier in summer.

Alternative Route

Carry on straight with the Brakkloof road, cross the Elands River, continue on to the Lindleyspoort tarred road, checking for Cuckoo Finch along the

way. Check the Pylons for Cape and White-backed Vultures.

Recommended Route

About 12km from Vlakfontein, turn right into the Vlaklaagte road, drive for 2km, check pylons for Raptors and scan lands on the right hand side for Yellow-throated Sandgrouse. This section of the road is very good for Raptors and Vultures. After 4km, the road bends to the left, drive for approximately 50m, stop under power lines, and check again for Vultures (both White-backed and Cape). Drive for another 2km checking water points on both sides of the road for Waxbills, Lark-like Bunting, Great Sparrow and Scaly Feathered Finch. See the Termite mounds where Ant-eating Chats have been spotted. After 5km of open land, one arrives at an exotic woodland, which is good for Little Sparrowhawk, Black-chested Snake Eagle, Pale Chanting Goshawk. Check the bushveld area for Barred Wren-warbler, Bru Bru, Wattled Starling and Pied Babbler. Be careful on this road wet conditions. About 15km from the Vlaklaagte road, one joins the tarred road. At the T-junction, take the Mabaalstad road.

Alternative Route

Turn left to Beestekraal which leads to the Lindleyspoort road.

Recommended Route

After 2km turn left into the Vlaklaagte road, check the open grassland for Secretary Birds and in summer check lines for Amur Falcon and European Rollers. Drive for 9km and at the T junction turn left to Lindleyspoort on the tarred road. Check the lines on both side of the road for Blue-cheeked Bee-eaters. The road then crosses the Eland's River again, keep a look out for the Green-backed Heron and Half-collared Kingfisher. At the T junction, turn right to Riekert's Dam (Lindleyspoort Dam)

GPS CO: S25` 28.672 E026` 42.923

Drive for approx 2km and turn left through the gate

GPS CO: S25` 28.902 E026` 41.862

This new gate is open from 07:00-16:00 on weekdays but might be closed on weekends.

Check opposite the Caretakers house, for Grey-backed Camaroptera and Black Cuckooshrike. Stop at the

picnic spot at the dam and check for Rock Kestrels. At the wall, Pied Wagtail, Rock Martin, Mocking Cliff-chat, Green Pigeon and Half-collared Kingfisher may be seen. Left of the picnic spot at the edge of the dam, check for Emerald-spotted Wood Dove, Striped Cuckoo, Horus Swift. Take the tarred road back to Boshhoek.

Alternative Route

Turn right into Vlaklaagte road, on the tarred road one will pass the first turn-off to Vlaklaagte from Lindleyspoort, on the left hand side, which was the alternative route mentioned previously. The road now crosses a river and then passes the 2nd turn-off to Vlaklaagte on the left. At this point one has now completed a circular route. Opposite the first turn-off from Boshhoek, take Vlaklaagte road to the right and follow it to the N4 and turn left back to Rustenburg.

Specials:

Cuckoo finch, Pallid Harrier, Carmine Bee-eaters, Half-collared Kingfisher, Yellow-throated Sandgrouse, Cape Vulture, Pied Babbler.

Directions:

Take the R104 to Phokeng and Nelson Mandela Drive on the way to Swartruggens. After ±5km turn right on R565 to Sun City and pass the new Royal Bafokeng Stadium on the right hand side. Travel on through Boshhoek. Take the Lindleyspoort turn off to the left and drive for ±11kms, then turn right into the Vlaklaagte road.

GPS CO: S25 27 679 E026 58 999

Koster Area and surrounds

Koster is an approximate 2 hour drive from Johannesburg and Pretoria. Follow the road to Hartbeespoort Dam, and take the route past Van Gaalens Cheese farm (R560). Continue the length of the valley and turn left on the R24 towards the town of Magaliesburg. At this point take the R509 to Koster, which is ±75km from Magaliesburg. The road and railway line forms the dividing line between the Grasslands of the Highveld to the South and the Middleveld or Bushveld to the North.

Vetpan

Vetpan is situated ±37km from Koster on the road to Lichtenburg. It is a large pan but it is unfortunately prone to drying up in years of low

rainfall. When the pan is full it is a birding paradise, but visiting this pan is by appointment only. From Koster, follow the R52 to Lichtenburg for ±15 km.

GPS CO: S 25°57.273 E26°46.432

Turn left on the Vetpan road (sand road). Follow this road, and lookout for your typical grassland birds such as widows, larks, korhaan and lapwings. After ±10 km, to the left, is also a special pan worth looking at (Mervyn's pan).

GPS CO: S26°02.548 E 26°47.202

This pan is not seasonal and provides opportunities for birding throughout the year, except in years of extreme drought. The pan is a refuge for a large variety of waterbirds and a rarity in this region, the Pygmy Goose, has been seen here on a number of occasions. As it is next to the road it is easy to make observations from your vehicle.

The farm can be visited by appointment and guided by

Estie van der Merwe

082 688 3644

There are occasionally Blue Cranes on the farm. Other birds include the typical highveld birds such as the Orange River Francolin, Eastern Clapper Lark and in November there is a major influx of Black-winged Pratincole.

From Mervyn's pan, follow the road another ±2.5km with Vetpan to your right

GPS CO: S26°03.634 E26°47.212

Between Koster and Derby is another dam that offers a high potential for interesting bird sightings. A visit to this farm can be arranged under the guidance, once again of **Estie van der Merwe** on 082 688 3644. Some of the birds recorded here are Pectoral Sandpiper, Blue Crane, Orange River Francolin, Namaqua Sandgrouse, Cuckoo Finch, Common Quail, Black-winged Pratincole (late November to December), Whitebacked Mousebird, Secretary Bird, Maccoa Duck (Large numbers) Lesser Flamingos, Yellowbilled Stork, Melodious Lark and other typical Highveld grassland birds. The R509 to Swartruggens is another route that affords the opportunity to see a Kori Bustard. After about 5.5km, turn right on the Enkelbospad (sand road).

GPS CO: S25°50.648 E 26°50.991

After ±8.5 km there is a 90 degree bend to the left. Look out for Buffy Pipits on both sides of the road. At the T junction, turn right to Blokkloof

GPS CO: S25°45.967 E26°49.883

Scan the trees carefully for raptors like Gabar Goshawk and Gymnogene. From the T Junction after ±4km there are extensive grasslands to the left. Look out for Kori Bustards and Secretary Birds. At the area where the power lines and trees start, look out for African Hawk-eagle and other raptors. Continue with this road to the T-junction.

GPS CO: S25°40.875 E26°49.190

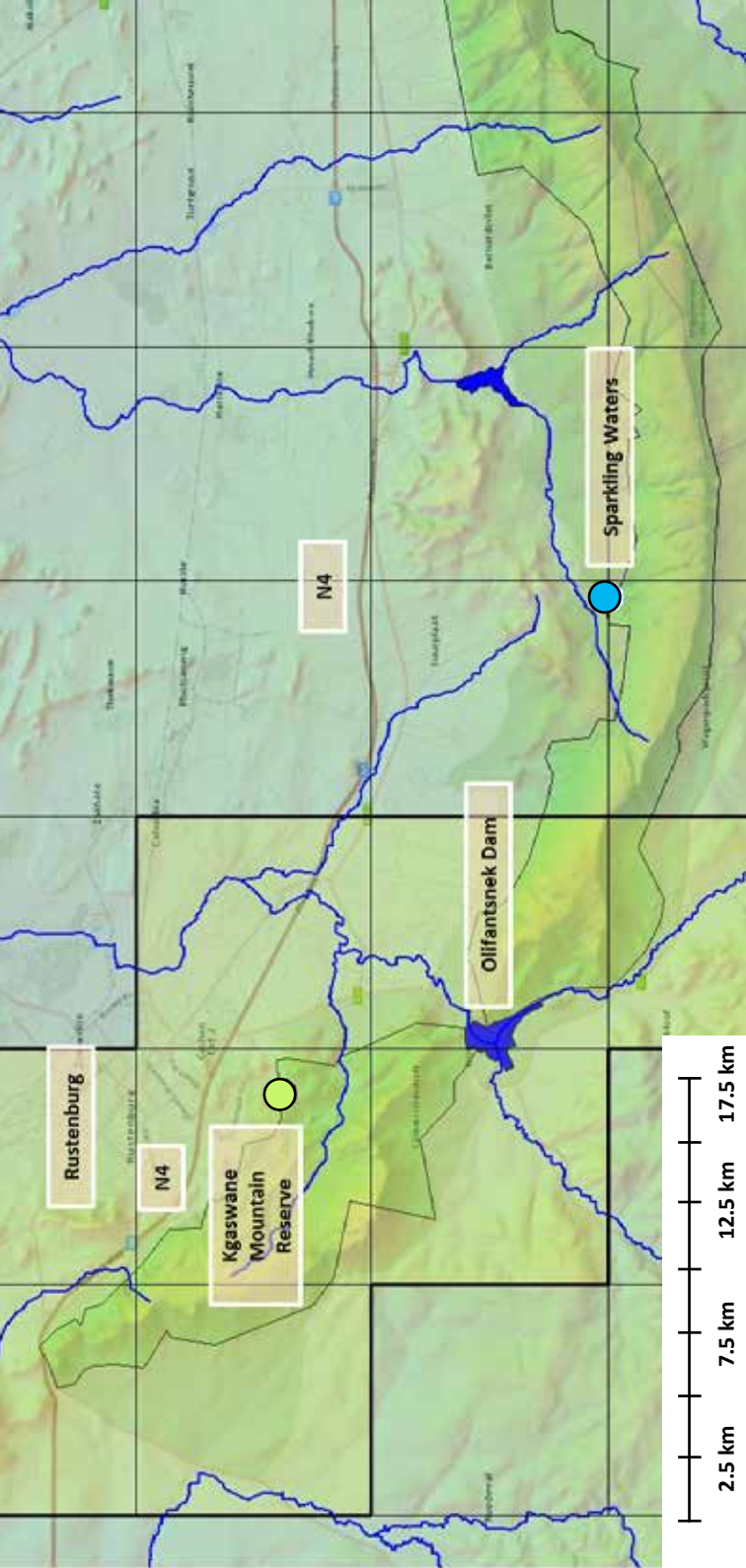
Turn right to Steenbokfontein. After approximately 2km, the Blokkloof Gorge area starts. This is a magnificent well wooded area with hundreds of Aloe Marlothii growing on the slopes. This area also has a number of mountain streams and rock pools making it an ideal habitat for many of the typical bushveld birds. From here follow the road to another T junction. Turn right back towards Koster (tar road). Continue another ±16km to a T junction. Turn right and follow the road for about 2.5km. This will bring you back to the town of Koster.

Specials:

Highveld grassland birds, Kori Bustard, Black-winged Pratincole, African Pygmy Goose, African Hawk-Eagle, Maccoa Duck, Namaqua Sandgrouse

For accommodation consult the Magaliesberg Meander website





EXPLANATION OF SPECIAL BIRDING HABITATS

Towns and gardens

Normally well wooded gardens going to the sub tropical on the Northern Side of the mountain. The many fruiting / flowering trees and shrubs have drawn a lot of birds in from Northern areas such as African Olive Pigeons, Green Pigeons etc. In winter there are magnificent displays of Aloes in flower.



Mining

Large areas to the North of the mountain are important Chrome and Platinum mining belts. Where mining has taken or is taking place the the landscape has changed forever, especially in the case of granite mining where often moon-like landscapes are left. The man-made rocky hills and water areas often host large numbers of bird species. Sand mining is taking place in all areas and these man-made sandbanks offer nesting sites for Bee-eaters and Kingfishers.



Farmlands

In much of the area, the natural bush has been retained. Lucerne growing areas attracts large numbers of birds like White and Abdims Storks when the harvest is cut. Lands are generally surrounded by bush and these lands attract a large number of ground birds as well as seed eaters that are found on weed patches on the fringes where of disturbed land.



Grasslands

Grassland patches occur on the Northern and lower slopes of the Magaliesberg. The predominant grass species is Red Grass (*Themeda triandra*) with large tracts of Thatch grass found along the road verges. This habitat is very prone to fires throughout the year and a number of species frequent the area after a fire.



Mountain Crest

This is a relatively barren landscape with many loose rocks that makes walking difficult. Main cover is short grass and herblike plants. The endemic *Aloe peglerae* (Turks cap aloe) occurs here. These aloes, which flower end July, are frequented by the Cape Rock Thrush. Typical of this high lying habitat are Rock Thrushes, Alpine Swift, Peregrine and Lanner Falcons, Rock Kestrels and Cape Vulture with the Verreauxs Eagle found in a number of localities and often seen hunting in pairs as they skim the crest in search of prey. Sheeleys Francolin frequents this habitat and Ground Woodpecker are known to occur but sightings are rare.



Valleys

Narrow valleys are found between the Magaliesberg and the hills mainly on the Northern side of the mountain and provide many habitats ranging from dense woodland, open Wild *Syringa* woodland, grass slopes and dense patches, wetlands, interspersed with tall *Aloe marlothii*, and large stands of the *Euphorbia ingens* (Candelabra tree). Many of these areas have been invaded by Bug Weed an excellent food source for many fruit eating birds.



EXPLANATION OF SPECIAL BIRDING HABITATS

Southern facing slopes

These slopes are cooler and moister than the Northern side with distinct Protea caffra belts. Grasslands occur up towards the Southern cliffs with dense bush low down consisting mainly of Acacia species like the Common Hook Thorn, some Sweet Thorn and a number of Karee sp, Wild Olive, Highveld Cabbage tree etc. Many of these (Wild Olives and White Stinkwood) attract large numbers of fruit eating birds like Red winged Starlings, African Olive and Green Pigeons during fruiting season.



Cliffs

The sheer high cliffs are found on the Southern side of the mountain overlooking the Moot Valley bushveld below. They have typical deep cracks and holes that provide the ideal habitat for mountain nesting birds of prey as well as swifts etc. These cliffs are the home of 3 of the regions' Cape Vulture colonies, the largest of which at Skeerpoort has around 280 breeding pairs. The other two are at Nooitgedacht in Buffelspoort and at Roberts Farm near Rustenburg. The Skeerpoort colony also has a number of Black Storks that roost and breed with the Vultures.



Kloofs (deep gulleys) and streams

Kloofs are found on the Northern and Southern side of the mountain and are characterised by dense forest with tall trees that form a canopy. These include various fig species, Wild plum, White Stinkwood, Red Ivory, Quinine tree and Cape Chestnut that is typical of Northern Temperate forest vegetation. The trees provides an ideal habitat for forest loving bird species. Many of these have fast flowing mountain streams and waterfalls that are worthy exploring on an ongoing basis as they are sure to reveal unique species. In 2011, the Narina trogon was recorded 2011 in one of these forests.



Rivers and dams

The region has 3 main dams, the Hartbeespoort, Buffelspoort and Olifantsnek. All offer access to the waters edge or open water (see info on specific areas). The Hartbeespoort is the only dam of these that is heavily polluted. Large tracts of water

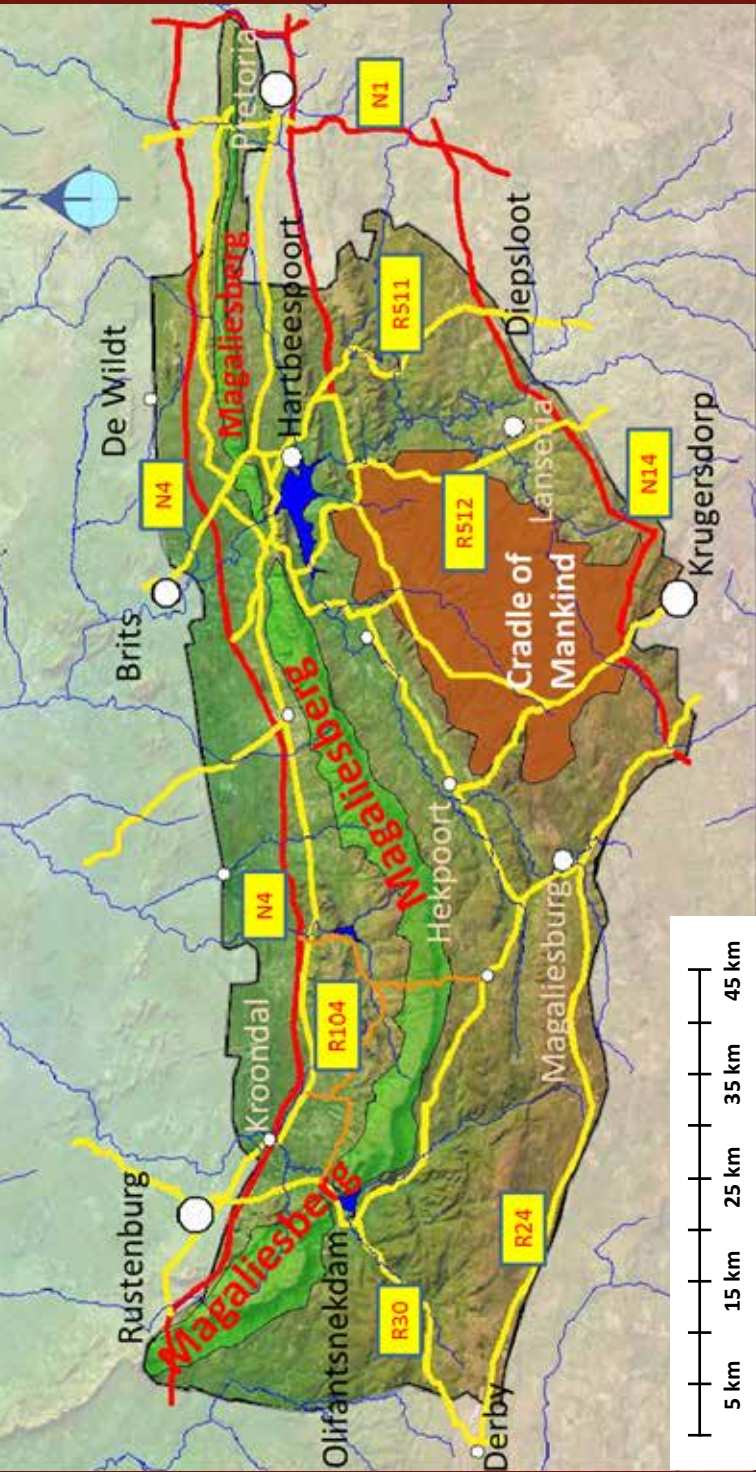


hyacinth are found on Hartbeespoort dam and this has seen the increase of a number of species that utilise this habitat ie Black Crake, African Jacana, African Purple Swamp Hen. To either explore on foot or boat will reveal a number of exciting species, and group of Greater Flamingo have become residents on the Southern side of Hartbeespoort dam.

Key rivers are the Crocodile, Magalies, Skeerpoort, Elands and Apies. These rivers provide ideal habitats for bird species especially when the water level is low during the summer and sand banks appear. Large numbers of migrant species are then found. Finally, there are unique pans in the Koster area that host many unique species (see Rustenburg area).

For updates and further information please visit
www.rotarybrits.org

AREA MAP



AREA MAP

MAGALIES BIRD LIST

MIGRATION (M)

M	Migrant (present September - April)
IAM	Inter African Migrant
AM	Altitudinal/regional migrant

STATUS (S)

NT	Near Threatened
V	Vulnerable
CE	Critically Endangered
RE	Regionally Extinct

EDEMICS (E)

E	Endemic
NE	Near-endemic
BE	Breeding-endemic

POSSIBILITY OF OBSERVING SPECIES



COMMON TO VERY COMMON

Fair probability to find this species in suitable habitat



UNCOMMON

Lower probability to find species, based on SABAP2 observers data



KNOWN TO OCCUR

Recorded at least once since July 2007



NO RECORD

No confirmed record since July 2007

AREAS



RTB RUSTENBURG / KGWASANE



BPT BUFFELSPOORT



HBP HARTBEESPOORT / SKEERPOORT



DWL DE WILDT / RIETFONTEIN



WBM WONDERBOOM / DERDEPOORT

MAGALIES BIRD LIST

SPECIES NAME	M/S/E	RTB	BPT	HBP	DWL	WBM	CHECK LIST
Apalis, Bar-throated (<i>Apalis thoracica</i>)							
Avocet, Pied (<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>)							
Babbler, Arrow-marked (<i>Turdoides jardineii</i>)							
Babbler, Southern Pied (<i>Turdoides bicolor</i>)	E						
Barbet, Acacia Pied (<i>Tricholaema leucomelas</i>)	NE						
Barbet, Black-collared (<i>Lybius torquatus</i>)							
Barbet, Crested (<i>Trachyphonus vaillantii</i>)							
Batis, Chinspot (<i>Batis molitor</i>)							
Bee-eater, Blue-cheeked (<i>Merops persicus</i>)	IAM						
Bee-eater, European (<i>Merops apiaster</i>)	M						
Bee-eater, Little (<i>Merops pusillus</i>)							
Bee-eater, Southern Carmine (<i>Merops nubicoides</i>)	IAM						
Bee-eater, Swallow-tailed (<i>Merops hirundineus</i>)							
Bee-eater, White-fronted (<i>Merops bullockoides</i>)							
Bishop, Southern Red (<i>Euplectes orix</i>)							
Bishop, Yellow (<i>Euplectes capensis</i>)							
Bishop, Yellow-crowned (<i>Euplectes afer</i>)							
Bittern, Eurasian (<i>Botaurus stellaris</i>)							
Bittern, Dwarf (<i>Ixobrychus sturmii</i>)	IAM						
Bittern, Little (<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>)	M						
Bokmakierie, Bokmakierie (<i>Telophorus zeylonus</i>)	NE						
Boubou, Southern (<i>Laniarius ferrugineus</i>)	E						
Brubru, Brubru (<i>Nilaus afer</i>)							
Buffalo-Weaver, Red-billed (<i>Bubalornis niger</i>)							
Bulbul, African Red-eyed (<i>Pycnonotus nigricans</i>)							
Bulbul, Dark-capped (<i>Pycnonotus tricolor</i>)							
Bunting, Cape (<i>Emberiza capensis</i>)							
Bunting, Cinnamon-breasted (<i>Emberiza tahapisi</i>)							
Bunting, Golden-breasted (<i>Emberiza flaviventris</i>)							
Bunting, Lark-like (<i>Emberiza impetuani</i>)	NE						
Bush-Shrike, Grey-headed (<i>Malaconotus blanchoti</i>)							
Bush-Shrike, Orange-breasted (<i>Telophorus sulfureopectus</i>)							
Bustard, Kori (<i>Ardeotis kori</i>)							
Buttonquail, Kurrichane (<i>Turnix sylvaticus</i>)							
Buzzard, Jackal (<i>Buteo rufofuscus</i>)							
Buzzard, Lizard (<i>Kaupifalco monogrammicus</i>)							
Buzzard, Steppe (<i>Buteo vulpinus</i>)	M						
Camaroptera, Grey-backed (<i>Camaroptera brevicaudata</i>)							
Canary, Black-throated (<i>Crithagra atrogularis</i>)							
Canary, Cape (<i>Serinus canicollis</i>)							
Canary, Yellow (<i>Crithagra flaviventris</i>)							
Canary, Yellow-fronted (<i>Crithagra mozambicus</i>)							
Chat, Anteating (<i>Myrmecocichla formicivora</i>)							



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web: www.theupperdeck.co.za

MAGALIES BIRD LIST

SPECIES NAME	M/S/E	RTB	BPT	HBP	DWL	WBM	CHECK LIST
Chat, Familiar (<i>Cercomela familiaris</i>)							
Cisticola, Cloud (<i>Cisticola textrix</i>)							
Cisticola, Desert (<i>Cisticola aridulus</i>)							
Cisticola, Lazy (<i>Cisticola aberrans</i>)							
Cisticola, Levallant's (<i>Cisticola tinniens</i>)							
Cisticola, Rattling (<i>Cisticola chiniana</i>)							
Cisticola, Tinkling (<i>Cisticola rufilatus</i>)							
Cisticola, Wailing (<i>Cisticola lais</i>)							
Cisticola, Wing-snapping (<i>Cisticola ayresii</i>)							
Cisticola, Zitting (<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>)							
Cliff-Chat, Mocking (<i>Thamnolelea cinnamomeiventris</i>)							
Cliff-Swallow, South African (<i>Hirundo spilodera</i>)	BE						
Coot, Red-knobbed (<i>Fulica cristata</i>)							
Cormorant, Reed (<i>Phalacrocorax africanus</i>)							
Cormorant, White-breasted (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>)							
Coucal, Burchell's (<i>Centropus burchellii</i>)	NE						
Courser, Bronze-winged (<i>Rhinoptilus chalcopterus</i>)	IAM						
Courser, Temminck's (<i>Cursorius temminckii</i>)	IAM						
Crake, Black (<i>Amaurornis flavirostris</i>)							
Crake, Corn (<i>Crex crex</i>)	V/M						
Crane, Blue (<i>Anthropoides paradiseus</i>)	V/E						
Crane, Grey Crowned (<i>Balearica regulorum</i>)	V						
Crombec, Long-billed (<i>Sylvietta rufescens</i>)							
Crow, Cape (<i>Corvus capensis</i>)							
Crow, Pied (<i>Corvus albus</i>)							
Cuckoo, African (<i>Cuculus gularis</i>)	IAM						
Cuckoo, Black (<i>Cuculus clamosus</i>)	IAM						
Cuckoo, Common (<i>Cuculus canorus</i>)	M						
Cuckoo, Diderick (<i>Chrysococcyx caprius</i>)	IAM						
Cuckoo, Great Spotted (<i>Clamator glandarius</i>)	IAM						
Cuckoo, Jacobin (<i>Clamator jacobinus</i>)	IAM						
Cuckoo, Klaas's (<i>Chrysococcyx klaas</i>)	IAM						
Cuckoo, Levallant's (<i>Clamator levallantii</i>)	IAM						
Cuckoo, Red-chested (<i>Cuculus solitarius</i>)	IAM						
Cuckooshrike, Black (<i>Campephaga flava</i>)							
Darter, African (<i>Anhinga rufa</i>)							
Dove, Laughing (<i>Streptopelia senegalensis</i>)							
Dove, Namaqua (<i>Oena capensis</i>)							
Dove, Red-eyed (<i>Streptopelia semitorquata</i>)							
Dove, Rock (<i>Columba livia</i>)							
Drongo, Fork-tailed (<i>Dicrurus adsimilis</i>)							
Duck, African Black (<i>Anas sparsa</i>)							
Duck, Comb (<i>Sarkidiornis melanotos</i>)							

MAGALIES BIRD LIST

SPECIES NAME	M/S/E	RTB	BPT	HBP	DWL	WBM	CHECK LIST
Duck, Fulvous (<i>Dendrocygna bicolor</i>)							
Duck, Maccoa (<i>Oxyura maccoa</i>)							
Duck, Mallard (<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>)							
Duck, White-backed (<i>Thalassornis leuconotus</i>)							
Duck, White-faced (<i>Dendrocygna viduata</i>)							
Duck, Yellow-billed (<i>Anas undulata</i>)							
Eagle, Booted (<i>Aquila pennatus</i>)	M						
Eagle, Lesser Spotted (<i>Aquila pomarina</i>)	M						
Eagle, Long-crested (<i>Lophaelagus occipitalis</i>)							
Eagle, Martial (<i>Polemaetus bellicosus</i>)	V						
Eagle, Steppe (<i>Aquila nipalensis</i>)	M						
Eagle, Tawny (<i>Aquila rapax</i>)	V						
Eagle, Verreaux's (<i>Aquila verreauxii</i>)							
Eagle, Wahlberg's (<i>Aquila wahlbergi</i>)	IAM						
Eagle-Owl, Cape (<i>Bubo capensis</i>)							
Eagle-Owl, Spotted (<i>Bubo africanus</i>)							
Egret, Cattle (<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>)							
Egret, Great (<i>Egretta alba</i>)							
Egret, Little (<i>Egretta garzetta</i>)							
Egret, Slaty (<i>Egretta vinaceigula</i>)							
Egret, Yellow-billed (<i>Egretta intermedia</i>)							
Eremomela, Burnt-necked (<i>Eremomela usticollis</i>)							
Eremomela, Green-capped (<i>Eremomela scotops</i>)							
Eremomela, Yellow-bellied (<i>Eremomela icteropygialis</i>)							
Falcon, Amur (<i>Falco amurensis</i>)	M						
Falcon, Lanner (<i>Falco biarmicus</i>)	NT						
Falcon, Peregrine (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>)	NT/M						
Falcon, Red-footed (<i>Falco vespertinus</i>)	M						
Finch, Cuckoo (<i>Anomalospiza imberbis</i>)							
Finch, Cut-throat (<i>Amadina fasciata</i>)							
Finch, Red-headed (<i>Amadina erythrocephala</i>)	NE						
Finch, Scaly-feathered (<i>Sporopipes squamifrons</i>)	NE						
Finfoot, African (<i>Podica senegalensis</i>)	V						
Firefinch, African (<i>Lagonosticta rubricata</i>)							
Firefinch, Jameson's (<i>Lagonosticta rhodopareia</i>)							
Firefinch, Red-billed (<i>Lagonosticta senegala</i>)							
Fiscal, Common (<i>Lanius collaris</i>)							
Fish-Eagle, African (<i>Haliaeetus vocifer</i>)							
Flamingo, Greater (<i>Phoenicopterus ruber</i>)	NT						
Flamingo, Lesser (<i>Phoenicopterus minor</i>)	NT						
Flufftail, Buff-spotted (<i>Sarothrura elegans</i>)							
Flufftail, Red-chested (<i>Sarothrura rufa</i>)							
Flycatcher, Fairy (<i>Stenostira scita</i>)	AM/E						

MAGALIES BIRD LIST

SPECIES NAME	M/S/E	RTB	BPT	HBP	DWL	WBM	CHECK LIST
Flycatcher, Fiscal (<i>Sigelus silens</i>)	E						
Flycatcher, Marico (<i>Bradornis mariquensis</i>)	NE						
Flycatcher, Pale (<i>Bradornis pallidus</i>)							
Flycatcher, Southern Black (<i>Melaenornis pammelaina</i>)							
Flycatcher, Spotted (<i>Muscicapa striata</i>)	M						
Francolin, Coqui (<i>Peliperdix coqui</i>)							
Francolin, Crested (<i>Dendroperdix sephaena</i>)							
Francolin, Orange River (<i>Scleroptila levaillantoides</i>)							
Francolin, Red-winged (<i>Scleroptila levaillantii</i>)							
Francolin, Shelley's (<i>Scleroptila shelleyi</i>)							
Go-away-bird, Grey (<i>Corythaixoides concolor</i>)							
Godwit, Bar-tailed (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>)	M						
Goose, African Pygmy (<i>Nettapus auritus</i>)	NT						
Goose, Egyptian (<i>Alopochen aegyptiacus</i>)							
Goose, Spur-winged (<i>Plectropterus gambensis</i>)							
Goshawk, Gabar (<i>Melierax gabar</i>)							
Goshawk, Southern Pale Chanting (<i>Melierax canorus</i>)	NE						
Grassbird, Cape (<i>Sphenoeacus afer</i>)	E						
Grebe, Black-necked (<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>)							
Grebe, Great Crested (<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>)							
Grebe, Little (<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>)							
Greenbul, Yellow-bellied (<i>Chlorocichla flaviventris</i>)							
Green-Pigeon, African (<i>Treron calvus</i>)							
Greenshank, Common (<i>Tringa nebularia</i>)	M						
Guineafowl, Helmeted (<i>Numida meleagris</i>)							
Gull, Grey-headed (<i>Larus cirrocephalus</i>)							
Hamerkop (<i>Scopus umbretta</i>)							
Harrier, Montagu's (<i>Circus pygargus</i>)	M						
Harrier-Hawk, African (<i>Polyboroides typus</i>)							
Hawk, African Cuckoo (<i>Aviceda cuculoides</i>)							
Hawk, Bat (<i>Macheiramphus alcinus</i>)							
Hawk-Eagle, African (<i>Aquila spilogaster</i>)							
Hawk-Eagle, Ayres's (<i>Aquila ayresii</i>)	NT						
Helmet-Shrike, White-crested (<i>Prionops plumatus</i>)							
Heron, Black (<i>Egretta ardesiaca</i>)							
Heron, Black-headed (<i>Ardea melanocephala</i>)							
Heron, Goliath (<i>Ardea goliath</i>)							
Heron, Green-backed (<i>Butorides striata</i>)							
Heron, Grey (<i>Ardea cinerea</i>)							
Heron, Purple (<i>Ardea purpurea</i>)							
Heron, Squacco (<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>)							
Hobby, Eurasian (<i>Falco subbuteo</i>)	M						
Honeybird, Brown-backed (<i>Prodotiscus regulus</i>)							

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SPECIES NAME	M/S/E	RTB	BPT	HBP	DWL	WBM	CHECK LIST
Honey-Buzzard, European (<i>Pernis apivorus</i>)	M						
Honeyguide, Greater (<i>Indicator indicator</i>)							
Honeyguide, Lesser (<i>Indicator minor</i>)							
Hoopoe, African (<i>Upupa africana</i>)							
Hornbill, African Grey (<i>Tockus nasutus</i>)	M						
Hornbill, Red-billed (<i>Tockus erythrorhynchus</i>)							
Hornbill, Southern Yellow-billed (<i>Tockus leucomelas</i>)	NE						
House-Martin, Common (<i>Delichon urbicum</i>)	M						
Ibis, African Sacred (<i>Threskiornis aethiopicus</i>)							
Ibis, Glossy (<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>)							
Ibis, Hadeda (<i>Bostrychia hagedash</i>)							
Indigobird, Dusky (<i>Vidua funerea</i>)							
Indigobird, Purple (<i>Vidua purpurascens</i>)							
Indigobird, Village (<i>Vidua chalybeata</i>)							
Jacana, African (<i>Actophilornis africanus</i>)							
Jacana, Lesser (<i>Microparra capensis</i>)	NT						
Kestrel, Greater (<i>Falco rupicoloides</i>)							
Kestrel, Lesser (<i>Falco naumanni</i>)	M						
Kestrel, Rock (<i>Falco rupicolus</i>)							
Kingfisher, African Pygmy (<i>Ispidina picta</i>)	IAM						
Kingfisher, Brown-hooded (<i>Halcyon albiventris</i>)							
Kingfisher, Giant (<i>Megaceryle maximus</i>)							
Kingfisher, Half-collared (<i>Alcedo semitorquata</i>)							
Kingfisher, Malachite (<i>Alcedo cristata</i>)	AM						
Kingfisher, Pied (<i>Ceryle rudis</i>)							
Kingfisher, Striped (<i>Halcyon chelicuti</i>)							
Kingfisher, Woodland (<i>Halcyon senegalensis</i>)	IAM						
Kite, Black (<i>Milvus migrans</i>)	M						
Kite, Black-shouldered (<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>)							
Kite, Yellow-billed (<i>Milvus aegyptius</i>)	IAM						
Korhaan, Northern Black (<i>Afrotis afraoides</i>)	E						
Korhaan, Red-crested (<i>Lophotis ruficrista</i>)	NE						
Korhaan, White-bellied (<i>Eupodotis senegalensis</i>)	V						
Lapwing, African Wattled (<i>Vanellus senegallus</i>)							
Lapwing, Blacksmith (<i>Vanellus armatus</i>)							
Lapwing, Crowned (<i>Vanellus coronatus</i>)							
Lark, Eastern Clapper (<i>Mirafra fasciolata</i>)	NE						
Lark, Eastern Long-billed (<i>Certhilauda semitorquata</i>)	E						
Lark, Fawn-coloured (<i>Calendulauda africanoides</i>)							
Lark, Flappet (<i>Mirafra rufocinnamomea</i>)							
Lark, Melodious (<i>Mirafra cheniana</i>)	NT/E						
Lark, Monotonous (<i>Mirafra passerina</i>)	NE						
Lark, Red-capped (<i>Calandrella cinerea</i>)							

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ELEPHANT SANCTUARY

MAGALIES BIRD LIST

SPECIES NAME	M/S/E	RTB	BPT	HBP	DWL	WBM	CHECK LIST
Lark, Rufous-naped (<i>Mirafraga africana</i>)							
Lark, Sabota (<i>Calendulauda sabota</i>)	NE						
Lark, Spike-heeled (<i>Chersomanes albofasciata</i>)	NE						
Longclaw, Cape (<i>Macronyx capensis</i>)	E						
Mannikin, Bronze (<i>Spermestes cucullatus</i>)							
Marsh-Harrier, African (<i>Circus ranivorus</i>)	V						
Marsh-Harrier, Western (<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>)	M						
Martin, Banded (<i>Riparia cincta</i>)	IAM						
Martin, Brown-throated (<i>Riparia paludicola</i>)							
Martin, Rock (<i>Hirundo fuligula</i>)							
Martin, Sand (<i>Riparia riparia</i>)	M						
Masked-Weaver, Lesser (<i>Ploceus intermedius</i>)							
Masked-Weaver, Southern (<i>Ploceus velatus</i>)							
Moorhen, Common (<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>)							
Moorhen, Lesser (<i>Gallinula angulata</i>)	IAM						
Mousebird, Red-faced (<i>Urocolius indicus</i>)							
Mousebird, Speckled (<i>Colius striatus</i>)							
Mousebird, White-backed (<i>Colius colius</i>)	E						
Myna, Common (<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>)							
Neddicky, Neddicky (<i>Cisticola fulvicapilla</i>)							
Night-Heron, Black-crowned (<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>)							
Night-Heron, White-backed (<i>Gorsachius leuconotus</i>)	V						
Nightingale, Thrush (<i>Luscinia luscinia</i>)	M						
Nightjar, European (<i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>)	M						
Nightjar, Fiery-necked (<i>Caprimulgus pectoralis</i>)							
Nightjar, Freckled (<i>Caprimulgus tristigma</i>)							
Nightjar, Rufous-cheeked (<i>Caprimulgus rufigena</i>)	IAM						
Olive-Pigeon, African (<i>Columba arquatrix</i>)	M						
Oriole, Black-headed (<i>Oriolus larvatus</i>)							
Oriole, Eurasian Golden (<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>)	M						
Osprey, Osprey (<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>)	M						
Ostrich, Common (<i>Struthio camelus</i>)							
Owl, African Grass (<i>Tyto capensis</i>)	V						
Owl, Barn (<i>Tyto alba</i>)							
Owl, Marsh (<i>Asio capensis</i>)							
Owlet, Pearl-spotted (<i>Glaucidium perlatum</i>)							
Oxpecker, Red-billed (<i>Buphagus erythrorhynchus</i>)							
Painted-snipe, Greater (<i>Rostratula benghalensis</i>)							
Palm-Swift, African (<i>Cypsiurus parvus</i>)							
Paradise-Flycatcher, African (<i>Terpsiphone viridis</i>)	IAM						
Paradise-Whydah, Long-tailed (<i>Vidua paradisaea</i>)							
Parakeet, Rose-ringed (<i>Psittacula krameri</i>)							
Parrot, Meyer's (<i>Poicephalus meyeri</i>)							

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Peacock, Common (<i>Pavo cristatus</i>)							
Pelican, Great White (<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>)	NT						
Penduline-Tit, Cape (<i>Anthoscopus minutus</i>)	NE						
Penduline-Tit, Grey (<i>Anthoscopus caroli</i>)							
Petronia, Yellow-throated (<i>Petronia superciliaris</i>)							
Pigeon, Speckled (<i>Columba guinea</i>)							
Pipit, African (<i>Anthus cinnamomeus</i>)							
Pipit, Buffy (<i>Anthus vaalensis</i>)							
Pipit, Bushveld (<i>Anthus caffer</i>)							
Pipit, Long-billed (<i>Anthus similis</i>)							
Pipit, Plain-backed (<i>Anthus leucophrys</i>)							
Pipit, Striped (<i>Anthus lineiventris</i>)							
Pipit, Tree (<i>Anthus trivialis</i>)	M						
Plover, Caspian (<i>Charadrius asiaticus</i>)	M						
Plover, Chestnut-banded (<i>Charadrius pallidus</i>)	NT						
Plover, Common Ringed (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>)	M						
Plover, Grey (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>)	M						
Plover, Kittlitz's (<i>Charadrius pecuarius</i>)							
Plover, Three-banded (<i>Charadrius tricollaris</i>)							
Pochard, Southern (<i>Netta erythrophthalma</i>)							
Pratincole, Black-winged (<i>Glareola nordmanni</i>)	M						
Prinia, Black-chested (<i>Prinia flavicans</i>)	NE						
Prinia, Tawny-flanked (<i>Prinia subflava</i>)							
Puffback, Black-backed (<i>Dryoscopus cubla</i>)							
Pytilia, Green-winged (<i>Pytilia melba</i>)							
Quail, Common (<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>)	IAM						
Quail, Harlequin (<i>Coturnix delegorguei</i>)	IAM						
Quailfinch, African (<i>Ortygospiza atricollis</i>)							
Quelea, Red-billed (<i>Quelea quelea</i>)							
Rail, African (<i>Rallus caerulescens</i>)							
Reed-Warbler, African (<i>Acrocephalus baeticatus</i>)	IAM						
Reed-Warbler, Great (<i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>)	M						
Robin-Chat, Cape (<i>Cossypha caffra</i>)							
Robin-Chat, White-throated (<i>Cossypha humeralis</i>)	E						
Rock-Thrush, Cape (<i>Monticola rupestris</i>)	E						
Rock-Thrush, Sentinel (<i>Monticola explorator</i>)	E						
Rock-Thrush, Short-toed (<i>Monticola brevipes</i>)	NE						
Roller, European (<i>Coracias garrulus</i>)	M						
Roller, Lilac-breasted (<i>Coracias caudatus</i>)							
Roller, Purple (<i>Coracias naevius</i>)							
Ruff (<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>)	M						
Rush-Warbler, Little (<i>Bradypterus baboecala</i>)							
Sanderling (<i>Calidris alba</i>)	M						

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Sandgrouse, Double-banded (<i>Pterocles bicinctus</i>)	NE						
Sandgrouse, Yellow-throated (<i>Pterocles gutturalis</i>)	NT						
Sandpiper, Common (<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>)	M						
Sandpiper, Curlew (<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>)	M						
Sandpiper, Green (<i>Tringa ochropus</i>)	M						
Sandpiper, Marsh (<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>)	M						
Sandpiper, Wood (<i>Tringa glareola</i>)	M						
Scimitarbill, Common (<i>Rhinopomastus cyanomelas</i>)							
Scops-Owl, African (<i>Otus senegalensis</i>)							
Scops-Owl, Southern White-faced (<i>Ptilopusus granti</i>)							
Scrub-Robin, Kalahari (<i>Cercotrichas paena</i>)	NE						
Scrub-Robin, White-browed (<i>Cercotrichas leucophrys</i>)							
Secretarybird (<i>Sagittarius serpentarius</i>)	V						
Seedeater, Streaky-headed (<i>Crithagra gularis</i>)							
Shelduck, South African (<i>Tadorna cana</i>)	E						
Shikra, Shikra (<i>Accipiter badius</i>)							
Shoveler, Cape (<i>Anas smithii</i>)	NE						
Shrike, Crimson-breasted (<i>Laniarius atrococcineus</i>)	NE						
Shrike, Lesser Grey (<i>Lanius minor</i>)	M						
Shrike, Magpie (<i>Corvinella melanoleuca</i>)							
Shrike, Red-backed (<i>Lanius collurio</i>)	M						
Snake-Eagle, Black-chested (<i>Circaetus pectoralis</i>)							
Snake-Eagle, Brown (<i>Circaetus cinereus</i>)							
Snipe, African (<i>Gallinago nigripennis</i>)							
Sparrow, Cape (<i>Passer melanurus</i>)	NE						
Sparrow, Great (<i>Passer motitensis</i>)	NE						
Sparrow, House (<i>Passer domesticus</i>)							
Sparrow, Southern Grey-headed (<i>Passer diffusus</i>)							
Sparrowhawk, Black (<i>Accipiter melanoleucus</i>)							
Sparrowhawk, Little (<i>Accipiter minullus</i>)							
Sparrowhawk, Ovambo (<i>Accipiter ovampensis</i>)							
Sparrowlark, Chestnut-backed (<i>Eremopterix leucotis</i>)							
Sparrow-Weaver, White-browed (<i>Plocepasser mahali</i>)							
Spoonbill, African (<i>Platalea alba</i>)							
Spurfowl, Natal (<i>Pternistis natalensis</i>)	NE						
Spurfowl, Swainson's (<i>Pternistis swainsonii</i>)							
Starling, Cape Glossy (<i>Lamprotornis nitens</i>)							
Starling, Pied (<i>Spreo bicolor</i>)	E						
Starling, Red-winged (<i>Onychognathus morio</i>)							
Starling, Violet-backed (<i>Cinnyricinclus leucogaster</i>)							
Starling, Wattled (<i>Creatophora cinerea</i>)							
Stilt, Black-winged (<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>)							
Stint, Little (<i>Calidris minuta</i>)	M						

MAGALIES BIRD LIST

SPECIES NAME	M/S/E	RTB	BPT	HBP	DWL	WBM	CHECK LIST
Stonechat, African (<i>Saxicola torquatus</i>)							
Stork, Abdim's (<i>Ciconia abdimii</i>)	IAM						
Stork, Black (<i>Ciconia nigra</i>)	NT						
Stork, Marabou (<i>Leptoptilos crumeniferus</i>)							
Stork, White (<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>)	M						
Stork, Yellow-billed (<i>Mycteria ibis</i>)	NT/IAM						
Sunbird, Amethyst (<i>Chalcomitra amethystina</i>)							
Sunbird, Greater Double-collared (<i>Cinnyris afer</i>)	E						
Sunbird, Malachite (<i>Nectarinia famosa</i>)	AM						
Sunbird, Marico (<i>Cinnyris mariquensis</i>)							
Sunbird, White-bellied (<i>Cinnyris talatala</i>)							
Swallow, Barn (<i>Hirundo rustica</i>)	M						
Swallow, Greater Striped (<i>Hirundo cucullata</i>)	IAM						
Swallow, Lesser Striped (<i>Hirundo abyssinica</i>)	IAM						
Swallow, Pearl-breasted (<i>Hirundo dimidiata</i>)	IAM						
Swallow, Red-breasted (<i>Hirundo semirufa</i>)	IAM						
Swallow, White-throated (<i>Hirundo albicularis</i>)	IAM						
Swamphen, African Purple (<i>Porphyrio madagascariensis</i>)							
Swamp-Warbler, Lesser (<i>Acrocephalus gracilirostris</i>)							
Swift, African Black (<i>Apus barbatus</i>)							
Swift, Alpine (<i>Tachymarptis melba</i>)	IAM						
Swift, Common (<i>Apus apus</i>)	M						
Swift, Horus (<i>Apus horus</i>)	IAM						
Swift, Little (<i>Apus affinis</i>)	IAM						
Swift, White-rumped (<i>Apus caffer</i>)	IAM						
Tchagra, Black-crowned (<i>Tchagra senegalus</i>)							
Tchagra, Brown-crowned (<i>Tchagra australis</i>)							
Teal, Cape (<i>Anas capensis</i>)							
Teal, Hottentot (<i>Anas hottentota</i>)							
Teal, Red-billed (<i>Anas erythrorhyncha</i>)							
Tern, Caspian (<i>Sterna caspia</i>)	NT						
Tern, Whiskered (<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>)							
Tern, White-winged (<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>)	M						
Thick-knee, Spotted (<i>Burhinus capensis</i>)							
Thick-knee, Water (<i>Burhinus vermiculatus</i>)							
Thrush, Groundscraper (<i>Psophocichla litsipsirupa</i>)							
Thrush, Karoo (<i>Turdus smithi</i>)	E						
Thrush, Kurrichane (<i>Turdus libonyanus</i>)							
Tinkerbird, Yellow-fronted (<i>Pogoniulus chrysoconus</i>)							
Tit, Ashy (<i>Parus cinerascens</i>)	NE						
Tit, Southern Black (<i>Parus niger</i>)							
Tit-Babbler, Chestnut-vented (<i>Parisoma subcaeruleum</i>)	NE						
Tit-Flycatcher, Grey (<i>Myioparus plumbeus</i>)							

MAGALIES BIRD LIST

SPECIES NAME	M/S/E	RTB	BPT	HBP	DWL	WBM	CHECK LIST
Turnstone, Ruddy (<i>Arenaria interpres</i>)	M						
Turtle-Dove, Cape (<i>Streptopelia capicola</i>)							
Vulture, Cape (<i>Gyps coprotheres</i>)	V/E						
Vulture Egyptian	RE						
Vulture, Lappet-faced (<i>Torgos tracheliotus</i>)	V						
Vulture, White-backed (<i>Gyps africanus</i>)	V						
Wagtail, African Pied (<i>Motacilla aguimp</i>)							
Wagtail, Cape (<i>Motacilla capensis</i>)							
Wagtail, Western Yellow (<i>Motacilla flava</i>)	M						
Warbler, Garden (<i>Sylvia borin</i>)	M						
Warbler, Icterine (<i>Hippolais icterina</i>)	M						
Warbler, Marsh (<i>Acrocephalus palustris</i>)	M						
Warbler, Sedge (<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>)	M						
Warbler, Willow (<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>)	M						
Waxbill, Black-faced (<i>Estrilda erythronotos</i>)							
Waxbill, Blue (<i>Uraeginthus angolensis</i>)							
Waxbill, Common (<i>Estrilda astrild</i>)							
Waxbill, Orange-breasted (<i>Amandava subflava</i>)							
Waxbill, Sweet (<i>Coccyzygia melanotis</i>)	E						
Waxbill, Violet-eared (<i>Granatina granatina</i>)							
Weaver, Cape (<i>Ploceus capensis</i>)	E						
Weaver, Red-headed (<i>Anaplectes rubriceps</i>)							
Weaver, Thick-billed (<i>Amblyospiza albifrons</i>)							
Weaver, Village (<i>Ploceus cucullatus</i>)							
Wheatear, Capped (<i>Oenanthe pileata</i>)							
Wheatear, Mountain (<i>Oenanthe monticola</i>)	NE						
White-eye, Cape (<i>Zosterops virens</i>)	E						
Whydah, Pin-tailed (<i>Vidua macroura</i>)							
Whydah, Shaft-tailed (<i>Vidua regia</i>)	NE						
Widowbird, Long-tailed (<i>Euplectes progne</i>)							
Widowbird, Red-collared (<i>Euplectes ardens</i>)							
Widowbird, White-winged (<i>Euplectes albonotatus</i>)							
Wood-Dove, Emerald-spotted (<i>Turtur chalcospilos</i>)							
Wood-Hoopoe, Green (<i>Phoeniculus purpureus</i>)							
Woodpecker, Bearded (<i>Dendropicos namaquus</i>)							
Woodpecker, Bennett's (<i>Campethera bennettii</i>)							
Woodpecker, Cardinal (<i>Dendropicos fuscescens</i>)							
Woodpecker, Golden-tailed (<i>Campethera abingoni</i>)							
Wren-Warbler, Barred (<i>Calamonastes fasciolatus</i>)	NE						
Wryneck, Red-throated (<i>Jynx ruficollis</i>)							

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ACCOMMODATION VENUES, TRAILS, SITES OF INTEREST AND BIRDING HOT SPOTS

The Magaliesberg Bird Checklist is available from a number of points including:

- **Van Gaalen Cheese Farm in Scheerpoort**
R560 main road - adjacent to the Eastern side of the dam
- **The Ring Oxwagon Lodge**
R511 Saartjiesnek - last hill before the dam from direction Johannesburg
- **Birdlife SA Office**
Barkston Ave, Randburg Tel +27 (0) 11 789 1122
- **Wildlife Society of South Africa Northern Areas**
Blackwood Road, Bryanston Tel +27 (0) 11 462 5663

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