

Additions to the bird list of the Golden Gate Highlands National Park

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In the original check list of the birds of the Golden Gate Highlands National Park, Earlé & Lawson (1988, *Koedoe* 31: 227-243) reported 159 species occurring in the park and listed another 14 species needing confirmation before inclusion. The purpose of this paper is to document 12 additional species, including four species previously recorded as needing confirmation, thereby increasing the species total for the park to 171.

The additional species are listed below. Bird numbers denote those used by Maclean (1985, Roberts' *Birds of Southern Africa*, Cape Town: Trustees John Voelcker Bird Book Fund) while the nomenclature follows the S A O S *Checklist of Southern African Birds* (1980, P H Clancey ed., Southern African Ornithological Society). All field observations were conducted during the period April 1989 - December 1990.

Order Anseriformes
Family Anatidae

99 *Dendrocygna viduata* (Linnaeus)
Whitefaced Duck
Nonnetjie-eend

Whitefaced ducks were recorded twice in the park during December 1989. On both occasions a single bird was observed swimming on the Golden Gate Dam together with African black *Anas sparsa* and yellowbilled ducks *A. undulata*.

Order Falconiformes
Family Accipitridae

155 *Accipiter rufiventris* Smith
Redbreasted Sparrowhawk
Rooiborssperwer

A pair of sparrowhawks nested in the trees of the caravan park at Glen Reenen during the summer months of 1989/90. They were frequently seen preying on small birds in flight

or mice on the ground along the road in a montane-grassland area. This was usually accomplished by making surprise attacks from the cover of ouhout shrubs *Leucosidea sericea*. One of the sparrowhawks was later captured using a balchatri trap and ringed. By April, the birds were no longer observed in the area.

Family Falconidae

180 *Falco amurensis* Radde
Eastern Redfooted Kestrel
Oostelike Rooipootvalk

From October 1989 until March 1990 a pair was regularly seen perching, sometimes in the company of blackshouldered kites *Elanus caeruleus* on the same telephone posts in the Oorbietjiekom mixed shrub-grassland area.

Order Cuculiformes
Family Cuculidae

382 *Clamator jacobinus* (Boddaert)
Jacobin Cuckoo
Bontnuwejaarsvoël

A solitary jacobin cuckoo was recorded in the newly incorporated Wonderhoek area of the park in April 1989. Five months later another individual was observed frequenting exotic trees in the garden of the staff house at Alma. Both these areas experience slightly warmer temperatures and consequently have a somewhat different vegetation structure than the older section of the park.

Order Strigiformes
Family Tytonidae

392 *Tyto alba* (Scopoli)
Barn Owl
Nonnetjie-uil

Barn owls are frequently heard and seem to be present in the park throughout the year in small numbers. Solitary birds were seen fly-

ing around the main road and Gladstone homestead at dusk on four occasions.

Family Strigidae

394 *Strix woodfordii* (Smith)
Wood Owl
Bosuil

Having been listed provisionally by Earlé & Lawson (1988), we can now confirm that wood owls are present in the park. Although scarce, they have been observed flying around at night or perching on telephone posts in the Gladstone area.

Order Passeriformes
Family Hirundinidae

527 *Hirundo abyssinica* Guerin-Méneville
Lesser Striped Swallow
Kleinstreepswael

Lesser striped swallows have been recorded on several occasions and can now be transferred from the provisional (Earlé & Lawson 1988) to the accepted bird list of the park. Field observations were limited to the montane-grassland areas at Generaalskop and Zoeloehoek during the warmer months of the year (November - February). In all cases the birds occurred in flocks, often in the company of Alpine swifts *Apus melba* and European swallows *Hirundo rustica*.

Family Sylviidae

685 *Prinia flavicans* (Vieillot)
Blackchested Prinia
Swartbandlangstertjie

We confirm the presence of blackchested prinias with records during both 1989 and 1990 in the ouhout communities in the vicinity of Cathedral Cave and at Mount Pierre.

Family Muscipapidae

689 *Muscicapa striata* (Pallas)
Spotted Flycatcher
Europese Vlieëvanger

Spotted flycatchers were recorded on several occasions in the Oorbietjiekom and Saaiplaat areas during the summer months, November - February. Individuals were always found in the same locality, often using the same set of perches.

Family Promeropidae

774 *Promerops gurneyi* Verreaux
Gurney's Sugarbird
Rooiborssuikervoël

Sugarbirds were often seen perching on top of aloes and proteas growing in a sheltered kloof at Mount Pierre where a pair was probably nesting during the spring of 1990. Individuals were also noted around Cathedral Cave.

Family Nectariniidae

785 *Nectarinia afra* (Linnaeus)
Greater Doublecollared Sunbird
Groot-rooiborssuikerbekkie

Although recorded irregularly, solitary sunbirds were observed throughout the year at the Alma homestead. The birds seem to be restricted to this part of the park owing to its slightly warmer climate and the availability of a large variety of exotic garden flowers.

Family Fringillidae

870 *Serinus atrogularis* (Smith)
Blackthroated Canary
Bergkanarie

The occurrence of the blackthroated canary has been verified on several occasions in the Oorbietjiekom area. The birds frequent grassy areas during spring and summer but seem to be absent from the higher lying areas and around homesteads.